

'Not prepared to bow out'

No majority rule here, says de Klerk

By Gavin Bell in Johannesburg and Andrew McEwen in London

PRESIDENT de Klerk yesterday firmly ruled out black majority rule in South Africa and asserted that power sharing, with constitutional protection for minorities, was the only realistic alternative to apartheid.

In the clearest enunciation of government policy so far, Mr de Klerk said "majority rule would lead to the suppression of minorities."

Those who enjoy full political rights at present are not prepared to bow out apologetically from the stage of history, he said. "On the contrary, a key role awaits them in any new dispensation. We shall not throw overboard the freedom and values that have been built over three and a half decades."

Mr de Klerk also told Parliament that the African National Congress (ANC) could be excluded from negotiations on a new constitution unless it abandoned its armed struggle.

"Real negotiations can take place only among those who are committed to peaceful solutions... the ANC's continued commitment to armed struggle, even if it were merely rhetorical, constitutes a further obstacle, alongside the reality of violence, which has to be removed. We must see an unconditional commitment to peaceful solutions, which includes the cessation of violence and of preaching

the armed struggle." The Government would strongly state that view in preliminary talks with the ANC next month.

Progress on those "talks about talks" is one of the key factors determining whether Mrs Margaret Thatcher will visit South Africa, Mr William Waldegrave, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said yesterday.

He was speaking as the Government brushed off Mr Nelson Mandela's warning that the Prime Minister would not be welcome if she visited South Africa before an agreement was reached on dismantling apartheid. Whitehall sources said she would go "when she thinks the time is right," and Mr de Klerk's visit to Britain next month would go ahead as planned.

Mr Waldegrave said: "I think the Prime Minister has made it clear that she is looking for a number of further important steps on the road to progress before she would consider visiting South Africa." She would want to see the ending of the state of emergency, the release of political prisoners and progress on "talks about talks."

Last night 10 Downing Street declined to comment on Mr de Klerk's speech, but said that Mrs Thatcher wanted to go to South Africa as part of the process of getting rid of apartheid and the release of Mr Mandela, the deputy president of the ANC, had been a key objective to any visit. Asked whether Mr de Klerk's comment ruling out majority rule would be another obstacle, an official replied: "We have never spelled out the conditions under which the Prime Minister might visit South Africa."

Mr Waldegrave had been responding to Mr Mandela's remarks at the Wembley pop concert in his honour on Monday, when he criticized Britain's stance on sanctions. Mr Waldegrave said that the relaxation of three measures had been a symbolic response to Mr de Klerk's decision to free Mr Mandela and legalize the ANC. Thirteen other sanctions remained in force and there was no immediate intention to drop them.

The minister also rejected suggestions that Mr Mandela had snubbed the Prime Minister by not seeing her during his visit to Britain. "It was a celebratory occasion and he came here for specific purposes," he said. Mr Neil

Kinnock, the Labour leader, last night described Mr Mandela's remarks as a clear message to Mrs Thatcher given in the most gentle way.

Mr Kinnock, who attended the concert, said: "He did not overstate the case, but said that in order to secure the eradication of apartheid and the development of democracy in South Africa, sanctions must stay on until significant progress has been made. He said it in the right place, in the country whose government is almost alone among the world's democracies in giving succour to the apartheid regime."

Mr de Klerk's speech yesterday contained no new reform initiatives, and a senior figure in the ruling National Party indicated frustration at the ANC response to reforms so far. "Mr de Klerk cannot keep making concessions while the ANC gives nothing in return."

The President rejected the British parliamentary model, saying: "The politics of confrontation, so typical of the Westminster system and our history, have to make way for the politics of consensus."

"We believe that majority rule is not suitable for a country like South Africa because it will lead to the domination and even the suppression of minorities. We are convinced that power sharing, based on full participation by all as well as protection from domination, constitutes the only workable solution."

Addressing more radical black nationalist demands, Mr de Klerk said: "To those who arrogantly equate the concept of a new South Africa to a takeover of power, the message needs to be transmitted loudly and clearly. The new South Africa will belong to all its people. It will not fall prey to a section of the population at the expense of the rest."

He also dismissed calls by the far-right Conservative Party for partition into race-based states as an impossible dream ignoring demographic and economic realities.

On the forthcoming negotiations, Mr de Klerk said that leaders outside the parliamentary system, and specifically the ANC, had to moderate their statements and realize that negotiation involved give and take. If anyone sought victory in advance, the process became meaningless.



Miss Jill Morrell, with other friends of John McCarthy, the British journalist kidnapped in Beirut four years ago, who donated chains and blindfolds yesterday in a symbolic demonstration outside the Iranian interests section of the Pakistan High Commission in London to mark the fourth anniversary of his abduction.

Mrs Glenys Kinnock, wife of the Labour Party leader, and Mr Anthony Grey, the former correspondent and captive of the Chinese, were among those who joined the vigil (Michael Knipe writes). Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who read a lesson at a service at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street,

marking the anniversary, acknowledged afterwards that there was nothing he could tell Mr McCarthy's family and friends that might raise their spirits. He could understand public criticism of the Government's stance over the hostages, he said, adding: "I do not blame people for criticizing because it is so very

frustrating. But I do not believe there is a magic way through." The other British hostages believed still held in Lebanon are Mr Terry Waite, aged 49, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Mr Jack Mann, aged 74, a retired pilot, and Mr Brian Keenan, aged 36, a teacher, who holds joint Irish-British nationality.

Kinnock may visit Bush in July

From Martin Fletcher in Washington, and Philip Webster

MR NEIL Kinnock is to visit Washington, possibly as early as July, to build on the improved relations which American diplomats admit now exist between the Bush Administration and the British Labour Party.

The White House has agreed in principle to a meeting between President Bush and the Labour leader, Administration sources said yesterday.

In London last night, American Embassy officials confirmed that over recent months Mr Henry Catto, the US Ambassador, and his senior staff have questioned Mr Kinnock and some of his Shadow Cabinet colleagues about election prospects and the party's rise in the opinion polls.

The Washington sources insisted that the White House had agreed to the meeting not because of Labour's dramatically improved standing in the opinion polls, but because it would be sharply curtailing supplies of natural gas.

President Bush responded swiftly, declaring in Washington that if the threat were implemented the United States would make "appropriate responses".

His statement contrasted starkly with his Administration's hitherto muted criticism of Moscow's conduct towards the breakaway Baltic republic, and introduced an ominous new tone into a long-running crisis which both the Soviet Union and the US have sought to prevent from damaging their broader relationship. In Vilnius, the Lithuanian Government re-

NUT leaders defy strike vote

By David Tytler, Education Editor

THE "National Union of Teachers" was thrown into confusion last night when its conference voted overwhelmingly in favour of national strikes to support redundant teachers, a decision immediately ruled illegal by the union's president.

Mrs Barbara Lloyd told the Bournemouth gathering: "The rules of the union do not permit it to take part in action outside the law, so the executive will not be able to implement any resolution of this conference otherwise than in accordance with the law."

The conference voted by 106,280 to 74,057 to demand a national strike in support of teachers made compulsorily redundant as a result of poll tax capping or reduced funding under the local management of schools. Mr Doug

McAvoy, the general secretary, who earlier this week accused the Militant Tendency of influencing the shaping of the conference agenda, said: "The union will not go outside the law. There can be no doubt that the intention of some supporters of this motion was to involve this union in unlawful action."

"It was right for the executive to try to win by debate, but it is equally right to make it clear that the union will not be asking its members to take action that will put them outside the law and has no intention of putting at risk its funds and resources."

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said last night: "I deeply regret the votes at the NUT conference. Strike action benefits no one. It hurts

children and diminishes teachers' professional standing in the eyes of the public.

"Parents will find it very hard to understand action taken against union executives' advice. I am sure there will be many teachers who will take a professional attitude and who, like me, will deplore their decision."

Moderate members of the union's executive had told the 1,400 delegates that a national strike could result in the sequestration of union funds, but Mr McAvoy promised the union would support with all its resources any local action, including strikes, to prevent teachers being made compulsorily redundant.

Mr David Gibson, of Barnsley, received a massive round of applause when he said: "If it comes to a choice break the

law, not the union," but Mr Ken Bone, for the executive, said that if the motion were passed it would lead down the road to destruction. "Why be so daft to fall into the trap? We would have no money to support pay campaigns or protect our members. Don't put the money into Thatcher's pocket, put it into the union's fighting fund."

Earlier, the conference also voted against the executive's wishes that it should explore ways of boycotting compulsory testing at seven, 11 and 14, as required by the national curriculum. It is, however, unlikely that such a boycott will be organized.

Pay strike threat, page 7
The teacher gap, page 12
Letters, page 13
Boy wonder, page 18

Plans to end air delays

The Treasury is to be asked to approve plans by the Civil Aviation Authority to spend an extra £400 million on new capital projects over the next decade as part of European efforts to end the increasing problem of delays and congestion in the skies.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, will outline the proposals next week when he meets ministers from 22 European nations. Page 3

Rover deal

Rover and Honda of Japan have formally completed the deal which gives each company a 20 per cent share in the other and have disclosed that Honda is to build a new range of cars in the United Kingdom. Page 2

German venture

Deutsche Bank, Europe's largest bank, is to form a joint venture with East Germany's Deutsche Kreditbank which will mean the West German company jointly operating a quarter of East Germany's bank branches. Page 25

Fans on trial

With English clubs hoping to return to European competition next season, the Football Association is to ask UEFA to assess the behaviour of English supporters at the World Cup in Italy. Page 46

Abernathy dies

The Rev Ralph Abernathy, the American civil rights leader and a top aide to Martin Luther King in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, died in Atlanta yesterday, hospital officials said. He was 63. He entered hospital last month with what first was diagnosed as a stroke but later was determined to be exhaustion and dehydration.

INDEX

Business	25-34
Court & social	14
Leading articles	13
Letters	14
Media	20-21
Obituary	14
Property	38-39
Sport	42-45
TV & Radio	23

Finance group forced to write off £550m

By Angela Mackay

THE financial services group British and Commonwealth Holdings has had to write off £550 million on a computer company it bought for £416 million less than two years ago.

Now the firm is trying to raise £750 million, mainly by selling assets, in an attempt to reduce its £1 billion debt.

Sir Peter Thompson, the chairman, said yesterday that his firm was making a £550 million write-off in last year's accounts for its Atlantic Computers computer-leasing subsidiary and that over the next 18 months many of its

businesses, including British and Commonwealth Merchant Bank, would be up for sale.

Sir Peter said that the company had only learnt of the size of Atlantic's problems two weeks ago and he could not rule out the possibility of legal action. The Bank of England asked British and Commonwealth's 10 main bankers to support the company in return for the sale of assets worth £750 million by the middle of next year.

Details, page 25
Comment, page 27



Mr Catto: Questioned Labour about prospects

Britain dawdles over getting back to work

By John Young

TO SAY that British workers were playing mass transit yesterday, with or without their bosses' approval, might be overstating the case.

But there were definite signs of a reluctance to rush back to the office desk or the factory bench, and of a general feeling that an extra day or two tagged on to the Easter break would be beneficial to health and happiness without bringing the economy to its knees.

Easter is still some way from becoming like Christmas and the new year, when so little constructive work is performed between the night of the office party and the morning after the New Year's Day hangover that many firms have decided to give their employees the best part of a fortnight's extra holiday. The original

purpose of the Easter festival - to give Christians the opportunity to reflect on the mysteries of the Redemption and the Resurrection - has of course long since become obscured.

But, in an age of increasing leisure, perceptibly more and more people are coming to see it as something more than just a long weekend, and are opting out of the queues and traffic jams that traditionally mark the return home on the Bank Holiday Monday evening.

The AA said that commuter traffic yesterday morning in and around London and other large cities was certainly lighter than on an ordinary weekday. Conversely, later in the day jams were building up in typical holiday fashion around the Dartford Tunnel, between Kent and Essex, and on motorways in the Midlands. A

similar pattern was noted by British Rail, with the volume of commuters noticeably down and a larger than usual number of passengers on long-distance journeys.

The Confederation of British Industry said it had no solid figures on how many people were taking extra time off, but there was no evidence of firms shutting down for a longer period than before.

However, Easter, like Christmas, was a time of year when people liked to build on their breaks, taking an extra few days to coincide with their children's school holidays or to make a trip to the country or abroad worth the effort and expense. "We do, after all, have many fewer statutory and religious holidays than most countries on the Continent," an official said.

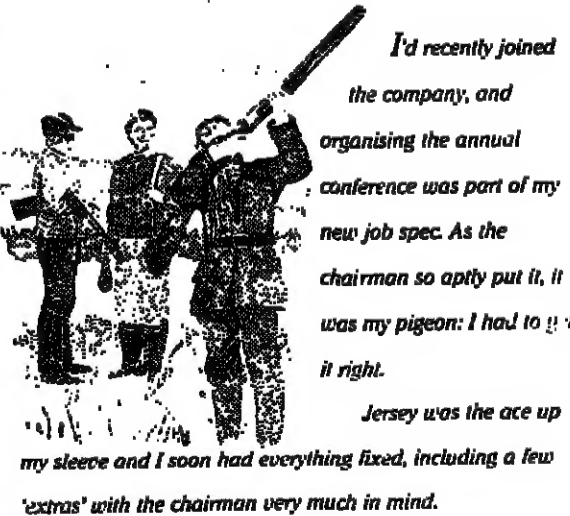
The Institute of Directors took a

somewhat different view. Although it had no official figures, the "feedback" it was getting suggested that the Easter holiday had not as yet been significantly extended. "For most people, it is still just Friday and Monday."

The Department of Employment also said that it had no evidence to suggest that a prolonged Easter break was becoming an accepted part of the working year. If more people were choosing to add a spring holiday to their Christmas and summer vacations, that was something for them to negotiate with their employers.

Statistics or not, there was a distinct impression yesterday that that is precisely what they were doing. Either that, or an awful lot of grandmothers were being buried.

Leading article, page 13



"It's your pigeon" said the chairman "Just get it right!"

One was a clay pigeon shoot and out on the range I thought a little encouragement might not go amiss. Just as he was about to call I had my chance: "Your pigeon chairman, I believe". The right move at the right time? Too early yet to tell, but the conference went well and the chairman is set on a Jersey holiday next year. So, it would seem, I did get it right.

Send for details to: Conference Director
Jersey Conference Bureau, Weightbridge, St Helier, Jersey, C.I. Tel: 0634 78886.

Jersey

A break, with convention

Honda will build new car for Europe after Rover deal

By David Young

ROVER and Honda of Japan have formally completed the deal which gives each company a 20 per cent share in the other and have disclosed that Honda is to build a new range of cars in the United Kingdom aimed at the single European market of 1992.

The car, which will be developed in two distinct versions — one a Rover with more emphasis on the traditional trappings of walnut and leather and the other a Honda — will be built at Swindon, Wiltshire.

The new cars will meet all European regulations concerning the degree of local content, but inevitably it will lead to complaints from European manufacturers who are already concerned about Nissan and Toyota building cars in Britain to get round import restrictions.

Construction work on the new £300 million car manufacturing plant is already well advanced and Honda has started recruiting to increase its present staff at Swindon from 470 to 1,770.

The new car is likely to be a development of the Honda Accord, a medium-sized car

which will bridge the gap between the existing small-to-medium ranges and the larger executive cars which have already been jointly developed by the two companies.

Rover builds Honda Concertos, a car which is broadly similar to the Rover 200 series, for the European market, and Honda markets the Ballade, a car which is similar to Rover's successful new 400 series.

The two companies also produce an executive car, Rover as the 800, Honda as the Legend.

However the Accord, which is the best selling car in the United States where it is built locally by Honda, has been hampered from increasing its market share in Europe because of import restrictions.

Honda has plans to meet demand for some versions by bringing in US-built cars to supplement sales of the Japanese-built models which have gained a reputation for their reliability and technical prowess.

The new cars will have body panels produced by Rover at Longbridge. Most engines and gear-boxes in the range will

come from Honda at Swindon. Certain models will come with Rover high-performance engines and transmissions produced at Longbridge.

Rover has now formally taken a 20 per cent holding in Honda of the UK Manufacturing (HUM). Honda in return is taking 20 per cent of Rover's shares and paying £30 million in cash to bring the value of the share exchanges to the same level.

The move does little more than cement the financial relations which have existed between the two companies for the past 10 years, Rover executives have privately conceded.

Each company will have one non-executive director on the other company's board. Mr Shoichiro Irimajiri, Honda's senior managing director, will join the Rover board while Mr John Towers, product development director of Rover, will sit on the HUM board.

The collaboration between Honda and Rover dates back to 1979, when they entered an agreement enabling Rover to manufacture cars under licence from Honda.

Residents ignore bomb squad warning

JAMES GRAY



AN ARMY armoured car standing by as a road is closed yesterday while a bomb squad works on explosives left at a former RAF airstrip in Gravesend, Kent. About 100 local residents ignored warnings to leave their homes as army bomb disposal experts moved

in to defuse 15 pipe explosives left over from the Second World War (Tom Giles writes). More than 3,000 people on the Riverview Park Estate were told in January that their homes could be damaged and lives put at risk if work to dispose of the explosives,

placed under a former landing strip, went wrong. Kent County Council, the police and 50 Royal Engineers from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit at Chatham, agreed to set up an exclusion zone around the 1,100-house estate after the bombs were

traced by army metal detectors last summer. Operations Crabsack will continue for the next five days, with road blocks set up and aircraft banned from the area. The explosives were intended to destroy the airstrip in the event of a German invasion.

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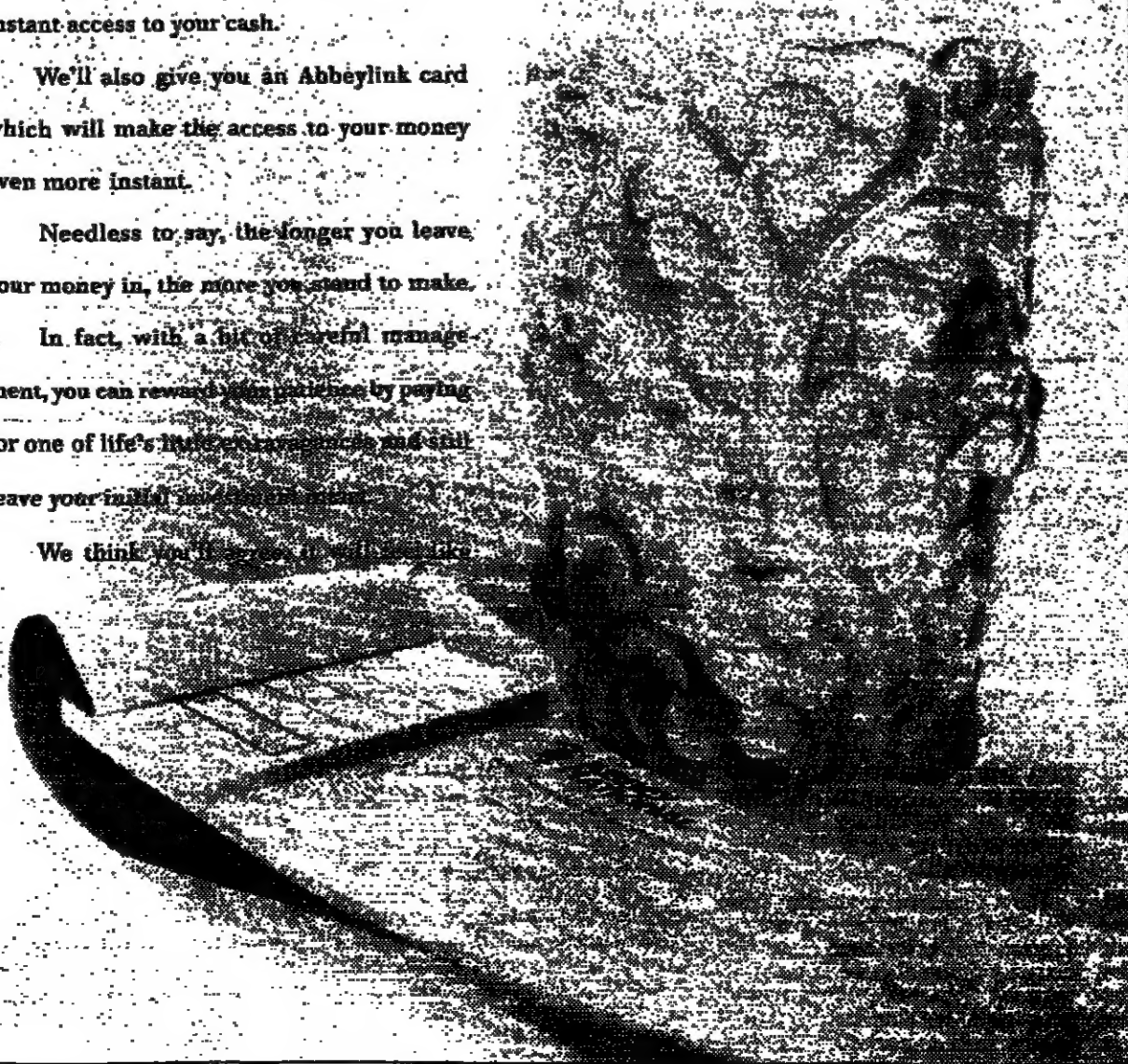
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Iraq 'gun' firm tells of worry on new order

By Craig Seton

ONE of the companies at the centre of the Iraqi "super-gun" allegations said yesterday that the Iraq Ministry of Industry asked it only two weeks ago to proceed immediately with another order for a component that the company feared might be used as a positioning or aiming device.

Eagle Trust, the parent company of Walter Somers Ltd, a forgemaster in Halesowen, West Midlands, disclosed that it had initiated talks to warn the Department of Trade and Industry about the new order from Iraq on April 9, only two days before Customs and Excise officers seized what they believed to be the barrel of a "super-gun" on board a merchant ship on Teesside, ready for shipment to Iraq.

It was believed yesterday that Eagle Trust may have alerted the department about the new order after publicity about 40 nuclear trigger devices bound for Iraq that were seized at Heathrow a week earlier.

Eagle Trust said yesterday that, by last month, Walter Somers had already supplied Iraq with over 120 metres of pipes, with an internal diameter of 350mm, when it received the new order.

Mr David James, the Eagle Trust chairman, said: "It was what was described as a form of railing and which looked to us, possibly, to have use as an aiming device and in conjunction with the earlier orders which had gone through and what we had heard in the media, it seemed to us it was something which should be looked at and approved before we could proceed with it."

He said that throughout the company's dealings with the Iraqi ministry, it knew of the involvement of Space Research Corporation and ATI, companies connected with Dr Gerry Bull, the ballistics expert murdered in Brussels two months ago.

Eagle Trust said that Space Research Corporation and ATI acted as agents and were the source of technical data relating to orders. The eight sections of tube seized on Teesside last Wednesday were made by another company, Sheffield Forgemasters, which has denied that they were the barrel of a gun capable of firing shells, but which has confirmed that it had been working on the contract with Dr Bull's Space Research Corporation.

Yesterday's statement by Eagle Trust was the most detailed yet about the involvement of Walter Somers in orders from Iraq, and the first to indicate the events that led to the Teesside seizure of pipes, which Sheffield Forgemasters said were for pneumatic use.

Mr James said Eagle Trust had no knowledge of Space Research or Dr Bull before his death on March 22.

The statement said the pipes supplied to Iraq by Walter Somers were five lengths of 10 metres, one length of 12.5 metres, four lengths of 10.05 metres and two lengths of 10 metres. All had internal diameters of 350 mm. It had also supplied hydraulic equipment.

Labour is to press for an emergency statement in the Commons today over the Teesside discovery (Richard Ford writes).

The Opposition wants Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, to come to the Commons to answer questions about the tubes seized.

Yesterday, Mr Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, demanded an end to the Department of Trade and Industry's "inexcusable silence and evasion" over the affair.

It seems assured of a majority approaching 40 on the second reading because of the votes of the 22 Liberal Democrats and Social Democrats, other minority party MPs and up to 20 Labour MPs who are unwilling to back the leadership line of opposing the Bill.

However, the business managers remained unsure last night how many of the 80 or so Conservative MPs who have expressed alarm about the proposals would vote against a Bill on which Mrs Thatcher has staked so much authority.

The whips believe Mr Norman Tebbit, the leading Tory rebel on the issue, may have lost some support because of his declaration last month of his readiness to stand in a



Mr Brown: official silence must be ended

Whips try to curb Hong Kong revolt

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

CONSERVATIVE Party whips will today embark on a final attempt to limit the size of the expected backbench rebellion over the Government's plans to grant passports to 50,000 Hong Kong families.

The Government seems assured of a reasonably comfortable majority tomorrow when the Commons debates the second reading of the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill.

However, the business managers remained unsure last night how many of the 80 or so Conservative MPs who have expressed alarm about the proposals would vote against a Bill on which Mrs Thatcher has staked so much authority.

The whips believe Mr Norman Tebbit, the leading Tory rebel on the issue, may have lost some support because of his declaration last month of his readiness to stand in a

leadership election if Mrs Thatcher stood down before the next election. Their objective is to secure as large a majority as possible on the principle of the Bill. This would strengthen the Government's ability to see off the inevitable procedural attempts to block the Bill as it passes through the Commons.

The Government could face its closest votes over the attempt to force all stages of the Bill on to the floor of the Commons, and over the guillotine — it will have to introduce to cut debate on the latter stages.

Parkinson seeks extra £400m to end flight delays

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

THE Treasury is to be asked to approve plans by the Civil Aviation Authority to spend an additional £400 million on capital projects over the next decade in an effort by Europe to end delays and congestion in the skies.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, will outline the proposals in Paris next week when he meets his opposite-numbers from 22 European countries in an attempt to set a timetable for the harmonization of air traffic control and the standardization of radars and other vital equipment.

Mr Parkinson said yesterday: "We do not have time to waste. I expect to see full agreement on the standardization of air traffic control equipment and a detailed

timetable for complete harmonization of air traffic control based on the existing Eurocontrol structure.

Ministers represented on the European Civil Aviation Conference have been shocked by reports showing that the number of flights delayed by more than 15 minutes almost doubled between 1986 and 1989 to about 24 per cent. They have been stung by criticism that they were doing little to find a solution.

"At first sight it would seem that the amount of money which has to be invested is frightening," Mr Parkinson said. "Yet in fact every country is now planning major investments in new air traffic control measures."

"In Britain alone the CAA has now told me that its capital expenditure budget is more than a billion pounds.

Much of that is already earmarked but we will have to argue for the rest through the Treasury."

Until now the CAA has maintained that its capital expenditure budget is £500 million over the next 10 years. However, the need for new equipment, a new air traffic control centre and other infrastructure projects has boosted that figure by a further £400 million. That expenditure will have to be approved by both the Department of Transport and the Treasury.

By bringing forward its plans for a significant increase in expenditure now, the CAA had "grasped the nettle" of improving air traffic control, Mr Parkinson said. But complete integration of Europe's air traffic services may be some way off, he said.

"By harmonizing training procedures and ensuring that all the equipment which is used throughout Europe is compatible things should be considerably easier," he said.

"In the detailed discussions which have been held so far with officials there is a clear indication of a willingness to co-operate and to work together. I am extremely hopeful that next week's meeting should be productive and lead to positive results."

Mr Parkinson also outlined plans to create a separate organization, under the general umbrella of the CAA, to be responsible for air traffic control. That would act as a half-way house towards complete privatization.

"Obviously I am, in general, in favour of privatization," Mr Parkinson said. "But I feel the public expect any aspects of safety in the air to be underwritten by the Government."

"The most important way forward now is to set up, within the CAA, a completely separate management unit, with its own budget and with its own clearly defined set of responsibilities; to take charge of all air traffic control services."

It is clear that Britain is taking a lead within Europe in forcing some degree of harmonization on to what has become an unwieldy and cumbersome air traffic control organization in advance of the full liberalization of European air services in 1992.

Mr Parkinson said that he was determined that lessons should be learned from the mistakes made in the United States, which saw the emergence of a handful of giant airlines after deregulation.

Industry turns to democratic diner

By Nicholas Watt

THE dispute at a British Aerospace plant over a new canteen in which the management and the rest of the workforce are encouraged to munch their sausage and mash together is the teething trouble of a relatively recent innovation for Britain.

The position of management and unions at BAe's plant at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, remained unchanged last night after a meeting between the two sides yesterday.

BAe maintained that the £400 being paid to managers to use the canteen was to make up the difference between their old and new food subsidies. The company rejected union demands to pay similar sums to the 1,500 manual workers at the plant, saying that the cost was borne in their working conditions.

There used to be a time when most employees ate in homes according to whether they were paid monthly, weekly, and at the department store. BAe's of Kensington management simply could not eat without being shielded behind a cardboard cut-out complete with lace curtains.

However, after the 1971 Industrial Relations Code of Practice recommended the abolition of separate canteens,

things began to change, though not without some resistance.

Ford still has segregated canteens at many of its plants, and a union official reported that one manager said that combined eating facilities would be introduced over his dead body. However, a spokesman for the company said that where workers wanted the new canteens, they would be provided. The union official said they had been asking for them for years, without success.

BAe's Kingston plant was fiercely criticized in a 1981 trade union report for operating a "blatant caste system". A spokesman said yesterday that until a few years ago there were three canteens, two of them next to each other.

Mr Ron Barwood, of the British branch of the European Catering Association, said: "There are not as many single-status restaurants in companies as you might think. But we are better than France, though not as advanced as West Germany."

A spokesman for the Institute of Directors said: "We do not find great hostility to single-status canteens."

"Whether they're installed is a matter of the companies getting round to it."



Steady eye: Lizzy Bone, aged 8, learning the secrets of plate-spinning at a circus workshop held for children at Jubilee Hall, Covent Garden, London, yesterday

Jackson backs jail review call

THE Rev Jesse Jackson, the US Democratic politician and civil rights campaigner, yesterday pledged his support to the campaign for a review of the case of the so-called Tottenham Three, the men jailed for life for the murder of Police Constable Keith Blakelock, at Broadwater Farm in 1985.

Mr Jackson spent almost an hour with relatives, friends and members of the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign, including Mr Bernie Grant, the Labour MP for Tottenham.

He said he was concerned about the confessions of Engin Raghip, aged 24, Mark Braithwaite, aged 23, and Winston Silcott, aged 28, and their lack of legal representation in custody.

Mr Jackson was in Britain for the Nelson Mandela concert.

Holy landing
From next month transatlantic flights will be permitted to land at Knock, Ireland's "Holy Airport" built on a hillside bog in County Mayo. Previously all flights, including charters, had first to land at Shannon.

Glasnost gift
Mrs Kathleen Tacchi-Morris, aged 93, a peace campaigner and a former ballerina, is providing in her will that her £300,000 mansion at North Curry, Somerset, should become an international exchange centre to be used by students from the Soviet Union. She said: "I just want to spread peace after I peg it."

Inquests reopen
Inquests into the deaths of the 95 people who died in the Hillsborough disaster will resume in Sheffield today, a year after Britain's worst sporting disaster. It is expected that the hearing will take up to three weeks.

Papers for blind
The Royal National Institute for the Blind is testing a digital newspaper system by which text is transmitted over the independent television network to a blind person's home where it can be "read" by a special computer program.

Cash no obstacle to Queen's visit

By Alan Hamilton

THE question being asked in Windsor yesterday was, who is the Keeper of the Queen's Bolls?

Although Her Majesty's family have tended to favour other, newer, schools, she none the less intends to grace the 50th anniversary celebrations of Eton College with her presence on May 29. Unfortunately her direct route from Windsor Castle to the school gates, barely half a mile away, is blocked by 14 concrete posts, nine plant pots and two benches. What was briefly at issue yesterday was who was to pay for the temporary removal of those obstacles to allow the Queen's carriage procession to cross Windsor Bridge, closed to traffic some 20 years ago.

It was not, a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said, anything to do with them. Further inquiries at the chief executive's office of Windsor and Maidenhead Council elicited the admission that they indeed would pay for the moving of the bollards, and that the total cost to the poll-tax payers would be between £100 and £150.

Mr Portillo refused to be drawn, however, saying only that the Government had received "complex and lengthy" proposals from BR, Trafalgar House, and BICC, which will build and operate the line, which would take time to "digest".

Referring to conflicting forecasts on the level of demand for Channel tunnel services, Mr Portillo said: "There are obvious difficulties in assessing demand for a facility which has not previously been available."

He added, however: "The argument that the taxpayer should subsidise rail services through the tunnel, regardless of the level of demand for such services, is groundless."

"We believe that BR are taking the right way forward, planning to meet the demonstrated, commercially viable, needs of those wishing to travel or transport their goods by rail to the continent."

Subsidy for channel rail link ruled out by minister

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

MR MICHAEL Portillo, Minister for Transport, seemed yesterday to rule out any prospect of a government subsidy for construction of the £3.5 billion Channel tunnel high-speed rail link.

He told a conference on the regional consequences of the tunnel, hosted in Leeds by Kent County Council, that he rejected all calls to repeal Section 42 of the Channel Tunnel Act, which prohibits use of government subsidies for international rail services.

Mr Portillo said: "Section 42 accords with the policy of successive governments, Labour as well as Conservative, that one mode of long-distance travel should not be subsidised at the expense of others."

"We see no case for treating rail services differently from sea or air services which are unsubsidised. Any subsidy for international services would give British Rail an unfair advantage over competitors."

"BR already operate InterCity and freight services commercially, without the need for financial support from the Government, and there is no reason why their international services should not enjoy similar success," he said.

The statement was greeted with astonishment by many of the delegates, particularly in light of recent speculation that the Government might consider providing a £1 billion subsidy if Kent commuter services shared the new line.

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"We believe that BR are taking the right way forward, planning to meet the demonstrated, commercially viable, needs of those wishing to travel or transport their goods by rail to the continent."

Mr Portillo said that while the scale of the Channel tunnel made it the leading transport project in the UK and France, "it will not replace the ferries, hovercraft, hydrofoils, and aircraft which link Britain into Europe."

"The tunnel will be a very substantial and important addition to these existing links," he said. "But the total freight capacity of the tunnel will be sufficient to handle 6 per cent of total UK trade by volume in 1993. By comparison, in 1988 Liverpool handled 7 per cent, Southampton 11 per cent, and Tees and Humber 13 per cent."

Mr Portillo also dismissed criticism that the economic benefits of the tunnel would be biased towards the South-east. "There are great opportunities for the UK generally. The longer distances and time savings will give transport of freight by rail an edge over road, and BR estimate that 70 per cent of rail freight through the tunnel will originate or terminate beyond the South-east."

However, Mr Andrew Brice, a member of the Kent Joint Action Committee, which is trying to get BR to reconsider its rail link proposals, said that he was "horrified" at Mr Portillo's attitude to the link, which he said was "laughably inadequate".

He said: "Britain has a good record on funding short-term solutions. Our canals were built so small that they are virtually useless for carrying cargo. The M25 was built too small and is now having to be widened at enormous expense. This stop-gap short-term solution is now being applied to our railways."

Mr Portillo called yesterday for private sector funds to help foster the continued renaissance of the Settle-Carlisle Railway.

Launching a prospectus detailing private sector investment opportunities in the line, Mr Portillo predicted considerable financial rewards for investors willing to back development of tourist facilities and services along the route.

He said that the line was to undergo a multi-million pound investment programme after which passenger service was expected to double over a million.

The fortunes of the line, one of the most scenic in Britain, have been dramatically reversed since British Rail proposed its closure for commercial reasons.

Slimmer of Year 'falsely endorsed product for £1,000'

A WOMAN named "Young Slimmer of the Year" had never used the "miracle" product that she publicly claimed had helped her lose 12 stone in one year, Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday.

Customers who sent money to Miss Michele Deakin's home and ordered the guar gum-based "Deakin Diet" never received the promised wonder granules, it was alleged.

Mr Peter Foster, who faces trial over the diet drink Bai Lin Tea, persuaded Miss Michele Deakin to claim that she had lost 12 stones by taking a special powder, and allegedly offered to pay her £1,000 a week for doing so.

However, Miss Deakin fell foul of *Slimmer Magazine* after endorsing the Deakin Diet on national television.

Mr Neil Flewitt, for the prosecution, said the magazine stripped her of the "1988 Young Slimmer of the Year" title, saying the award was only given to people who lost weight naturally.

Subsequently, hundreds of people who had sent off for the Deakin Diet began to complain after receiving nothing in return for their cheques.

Miss Deakin, aged 21, of Darrel Drive, Wavertree, Merseyside, denies conspiring with Mr Foster and others to sell a dieting and weight loss aid, advertised with a false trade description.

Mr Flewitt added that Mr Foster was due to stand trial in 1988 at Warwick Crown Court on similar charges. "He fled to America and is believed to be on the Cayman Islands."

Mr Flewitt said Miss Deakin, weighed 22½ stone when she was 17. But in just over a year, entirely due to her own efforts, she had slimmed down to 10st 10lb. In January 1988, on the day after she had received the award from the magazine, she had received a telephone call from Mr Foster.

"He claimed he was involved with all the stars and he offered to assist her with the publication of her diet," Mr Flewitt said.

"Foster said a diet was not good enough, she needed a product to encourage it. He gave an example of his success, mentioning Bai Lin tea, which was endorsed by the model Samantha Fox." At a

London meeting with Mr Foster, Mr Kit Miller, his associate, and two others, Miss Deakin was offered £1,000 a week to promote a product, which Foster had available. The four arranged a TV appearance on *Daytime Live*, in which Deakin spoke to a script she later claimed was prepared by Miller.

"She was telling the audience that her weight loss was entirely due to her taking the Deakin Diet. That was a lie, plain and simple," Mr Flewitt said.

Miss Deakin had told viewers that the powder, supposedly a new invention, had been developed by a factory near her home.

In advertising literature, she had also claimed that the manufacturers had asked her to be the guinea pig, "even though I looked more like an elephant".

Miss Deakin has since gained back much weight. The powder was in fact guar gum, previously launched by Foster as MRA30.

The court was told that more than £24,000 was found to have been taken in orders for the Deakin Diet. "But there were probably a lot more orders," Mr Flewitt said.

Mr Flewitt, prosecuting on behalf of Knowsley Borough Council's Trading Standards Department, added: "Somebody has made a lot of money out of this scheme."

The trial continues today.

two thought he was her brother. A few were under the impression he was the President of the United States, but then there were others who thought the same of Mr Neil Kinnock.

Two fifths of the children knew of Mr Salman Rushdie, although some thought he had written *The Titanic Verses*, one thought he was what you got if you did not cook meat properly, and another begged his bets: "He is a fish or a prime minister."

Tiananmen Square was correctly identified by a quarter of the children, but was also confused with Trafalgar Square and sited variously in Russia, Romania, South Africa, the United States, India, Japan and Germany.

More than nine-tenths could explain the term "fast forward", more than half knew what a mortgage was, and 46 per cent had the gist of the term poll tax. "We mortgage our house if we can't pay our poll tax," one precocious child said.

Just over a fifth knew what an E-number was, but only 17 per cent could cope with the EEC, which was confused with the NEC (National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham), the CFC gases, a PC, and the RAC. One child thought it stood for Easy Education for Children, which would have to come from television supposedly, because no fewer than 98 per cent of the respondents were in no doubt about Kylie Minogue.

And Des Clarke? Well, ask a child of nine and they will tell you he is a star in the soap opera *Neighbours*.

Fame clings only to Neighbours

By Robin Young

YOU DO not have to be nine or ten to know who Des Clarke is, but it helps. At any rate, nine tenths of the 700 children asked that question in a survey by *Plus Magazine* got the answer right.

On the other hand, only 16 per cent of them could explain the term "Iron Curtain". One of them thought it was Mrs Thatcher. Fewer than a third knew of Winston Churchill. Several identified him as a character in *Ghostbusters* (who is actually Winston Zeddemore).

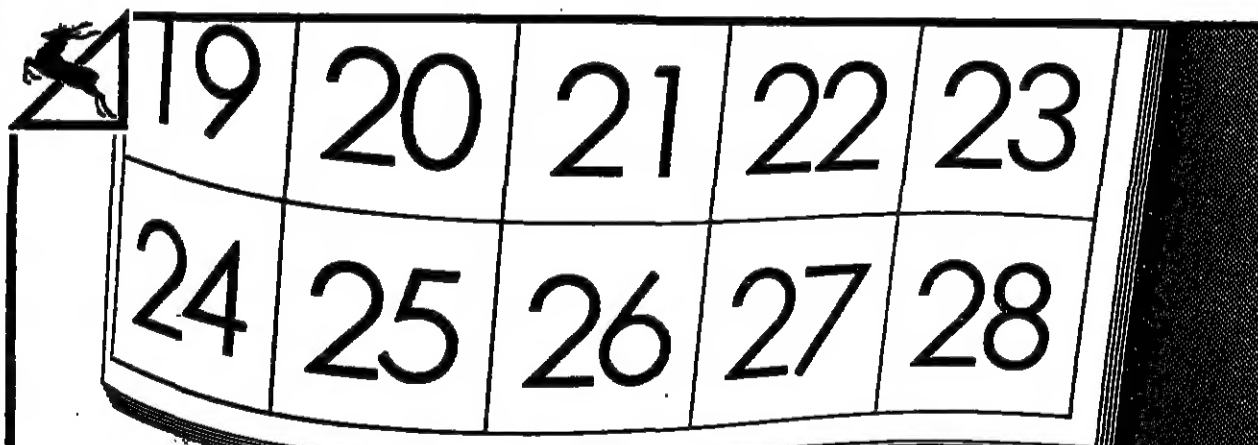
More than two-thirds knew of Mr Nelson Mandela, ("the most popular prisoner for 25 years", one wrote), but fewer than half had Mr Mikhail Gorbachev right. Some thought of him as "the Prime Minister's friend", and

two thought he was her brother. A few were under the impression he was the President of the United States, but then there were others who thought the same of Mr Neil Kinnock.

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More than nine-tenths could explain



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DON'T FALL FOR THE CON.

The Conservatives conned us in 1979 by claiming that all we had to do was stand on our own two feet, pull our socks up and everything would be all right.

They conned us by promising a boom, an economic miracle with 'zero' inflation. In fact, it's been an economic mirage. Our inflation's now the highest in Europe, while our trade deficit is the worst in our history.

They conned us by suggesting that government has no role to play in industry. 'Sink or swim' was their motto. And many of our industries sank without trace. (Now even Jaguar's owned by the Americans.) In fact, our share of world manufactured trade has fallen by 25% in the last ten years.

They conned us by introducing so-called Youth Training Schemes. But they don't seem to have trained or taught anyone anything. All they did was make the unemployment figures look a bit better and give businesses the opportunity to use cheap, unskilled labour. On average, a German company spends fourteen times more on training than its British counterpart. What's more, expenditure on training is to be cut again: by £100m in 1990 and by £200m in 1991.

They conned us by promising to put more money in our pockets. Instead, runaway interest rates have emptied our pockets. In fact, interest rates have increased eleven times in the last eighteen months to become higher than those of any of our European competitors.

They conned us by promising to cut taxation. In reality, we pay more tax now than we did in 1979.

They conned us by promising to protect the homeowner. People got their dream homes. Things began to look rosy. But record mortgage rates soon turned their dream into a nightmare. Thousands of families are now living at subsistence level with evictions running at an all-time high.

Amazingly, they even conned their own staunchest supporters. The combination of soaring interest rates and huge rate increases in the shape of the new Uniform Business Rate ('Poll Tax for Businesses') means that businesses are going to the wall faster than at any time since the Depression.

They conned us by pretending to be the upholders of family values. But they have actually cut child benefit and pensions in real terms, pushing the families that depend on them most even deeper into poverty and debt.

They conned us with their promises to make the rates system fairer. But nothing could be more unfair than the hated Poll Tax which, again, penalises those with more mouths to feed. To add insult to injury, the Conservatives claimed that the average contribution would be £278. In reality, it's £363.

They conned us by promising our children a better education, perhaps the cruellest con of all. Their savage cost-cutting measures mean that nearly 4,000 teaching vacancies remain unfilled.

They conned us by saying the health service would be safe in their hands but 468 hospitals have closed since 1979 and almost a million people are waiting for treatment.

They conned us again by claiming to be the party of law and order. In fact, our streets are now more dangerous than ever.

But we can do something to stop the rot.

We can invest money in our own industries instead of selling them off to the highest bidder.

We can invest in training our youngsters properly.

We can start to attract more and better teachers by paying them a decent salary.

We can follow the example of Germany, France and Japan where government works in partnership with business and not against it.

We can help to put an end to the 'us and them' attitude that's held our country back.

We can build a prosperous future for all of our people.

But we can only do it with your support and your vote.

 **LABOUR. THE PEOPLE WHO CAN, NOT THE PEOPLE WHO CON.**

Private firms may take over running of remand hostels

By Quentin Cowley, Home Affairs Correspondent

BAIL hostels and accommodation for recently released prisoners may be privatized while probation officers concentrate on other work, under Home Office proposals.

An expanded probation service would prepare reports for courts, monitor compliance of court orders and tackle offending behaviour. Some other duties would be contracted out to voluntary bodies or the private sector, using competitive tendering.

The Home Office says the new approach could save money and improve standards of service. However, many probation officers and some voluntary organizations regard the idea with suspicion.

Ministers think the independent sector could broaden its activities in crime prevention, prisoner welfare and providing specialist services under non-custodial sentences as well as breaking into new areas such as bail hostel management.

A number of companies have voiced interest in running bail hostels, most of which are managed by probation officers.

The Home Office also wants

to see greater co-operation between the criminal justice agencies. Committees with representatives from the police, courts, probation service and voluntary bodies could analyse local crime patterns and suggest solutions.

Mr John Paton, Minister of State at the Home Office, said he hoped probation officers would concentrate on their three main tasks, which would assume greater importance under plans to increase punishment.

"We want to encourage further developments, not just to allow skilled probation resources to be released for more intensive work, but to put to maximum use the skills and valuable experience of voluntary and private sector bodies," he said. Getting probation officers to ensure that someone in a bail hostel ate three meals a day and made his bed each morning was a waste of expertise.

Instead, they should have overall responsibility for the supervision of probation or community service programmes, monitoring standards, retaining the power to

report breaches of orders, and conducting therapy designed to prevent re-offending. Voluntary organizations could provide job training, health education or community reparation projects.

The National Association for Probation Officers said: "This will have a detrimental effect on the work the probation service does for offenders and courts and will lead to fragmentation."

Miss Vivien Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said voluntary organizations had to complement, not replace the probation service.

"Such concepts as competitive tendering, time-limited contracts and uncertain, short-term funding would play havoc with the quality of services."

The idea, however, received support from the Association of Chief Officers of Probation which agreed that a "broad approach" was needed. "It is good to hear confirmation from Government that different approaches should be tried in different locations, tailored to local needs."

Hendrix guitar up for auction



Mitch Mitchell, one-time drummer with the Jimi Hendrix Experience, plays the white Fender Stratocaster he used at the Woodstock and Isle of Wight pop festivals. The instrument is expected to make £50,000 to £70,000 in an auction of rock memorabilia at Sotheby's next

Wednesday (John Shaw writes). Mitchell was given the guitar by Hendrix in exchange for a drum kit.

Part of its value stems from its survival; Hendrix, a volatile performer who died prematurely in 1970, was well known for smashing instruments on stage. Mr Steve Maycock, in charge of

the auction, said: "Jimi Hendrix was the best exponent of the electric guitar around. He was streets ahead of everyone else. This was his favourite instrument." The sale includes a cream jumpsuit worn by Elvis Presley on stage in Las Vegas, estimated at £25,000 to £30,000, and two Marilyn Monroe dresses.

Inspector ignored race gibes PC says

A BLACK police constable who accuses his former chiefs of racism believed he was being "hounded" out of the force, a London industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

PC William Halliday, aged 30, claims he was offered a transfer if he dropped the case. He told the Ebury Bridge tribunal that Inspector Ian Thirkell, a former royal bodyguard, and other white officers at Orpington Police station, Kent called him "nigger" and "coon" and referred to him as "Bill the Spook". The Metropolitan Police claim the exchanges were "joke banter".

When he complained about the allegedly racist remarks to Mr Thirkell, his superior, and other chiefs, nothing was done. PC Hugh Muir, the Police Federation shop steward for the area, said: "The main objection was that the supervisors were aware of it and would not discourage it."

"Constable Halliday said it was banter but sometimes it personally did hurt him."

Insp Thirkell and the Metropolitan Police deny racial discrimination.

PC Halliday denies claims that he was "paranoid, lazy and sexist". The black policeman is alleged to have asked a WPC: "Fancy a bit of black?" The hearing continues today.

More against NHS reforms

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

PUBLIC opposition to the Government's health service reforms has reached new heights, according to an opinion poll published yesterday by the British Medical Association.

The Gallup poll shows that 77 per cent of people who are aware of the proposed reforms disapprove of them. That is 6 per cent more than a similar poll in January, and the highest proportion recorded in five surveys carried out since last summer.

Dr John Marks, chairman of the BMA Council, said yesterday: "The new poll shows beyond any doubt that the Government has failed utterly to convince the public

about its reforms. Ministers and their supporters have tried for a year to get their theories accepted, with conspicuous lack of success."

Gallup interviewed 853 people, of whom 567 were aware of the reforms. The poll shows that of this number, only 11 per cent approve of them, and only 8 per cent favour their immediate implementation.

Seventy-five per cent favour the changes being introduced experimentally in pilot areas, a strategy advocated by the BMA and the medical royal colleges.

The association is publishing the poll to coincide with the NHS Bill beginning its committee stage in the House of Lords tomorrow. Next Tuesday the Lords will debate an amendment allowing pilot schemes to take place.

Dr Marks said: "We fully support this proposal, which would save the NHS from widespread and unnecessary damage to patient care from the precipitate introduction of untried, untested and unevaluated proposals."

"The Government has an opportunity even at this late stage, to accept the idea of regional experiments."

The poll shows that 70 per cent are against the proposal that general practitioners should have a budget from which to pay the running costs of their practice and the costs of medicines and hospital treatment for their patients.

The proposal that local hospitals should become self-governing rather than controlled by health authorities is supported by 21 per cent of those polled, and opposed by 67 per cent.

Asked whether the NHS would be in better or worse shape 10 years after the reforms, 15 per cent said it would be better, and 69 per cent said it would be worse.

Lord Cardigan is leading a campaign against health chiefs who want to close the operating theatre and a ward at his local NHS hospital, the Saverne Hospital near Marlborough, Wiltshire.

The closures are threatened to help Swindon health authority trim a million pounds off its spending for the next 12 months.

Contracts in NHS attacked

By Kerry Gill

PRIVATIZATION in the National Health Service must be overturned by a Labour government as a matter of urgency, the Scottish Trades Union Congress resolved yesterday.

Delegates at the STUC annual conference in Glasgow voted overwhelmingly for a resolution calling for all contracts awarded under private tendering to be scrapped once Labour had won office.

Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said that the Government was attempting to introduce a two-tier system of health care. It had "deliberately run down the health service to the point where even some of the service's best supporters have felt they might now need to take out private health insurance because of waiting lists."

He said: "We are heading towards a US-style health service in which, if you have got the money, you will be all right, if you haven't, you will have to suffer."

The conference called for the Health and Safety Executive to start a stress counselling service in industry.

Painkiller is linked with kidney failure

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

EVIDENCE that a leading painkiller could cause kidney failure is to be studied by Department of Health experts.

The drug ibuprofen, sold over the counter as Nurofen, has been linked with the potentially fatal condition by researchers in the United States.

Nurofen is one of Britain's biggest-selling, non-prescription pain relievers. About 15 million tablets are sold each year by Boots, which makes them at its Nottingham laboratories.

Results of a three-year study into the side-effects of ibuprofen were published this week in the American journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*, by researchers at the Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore.

They studied the short-term effects of the drug on 12 women, with mild kidney disease, who also had arthritis, and high blood pressure, conditions which often prompt its

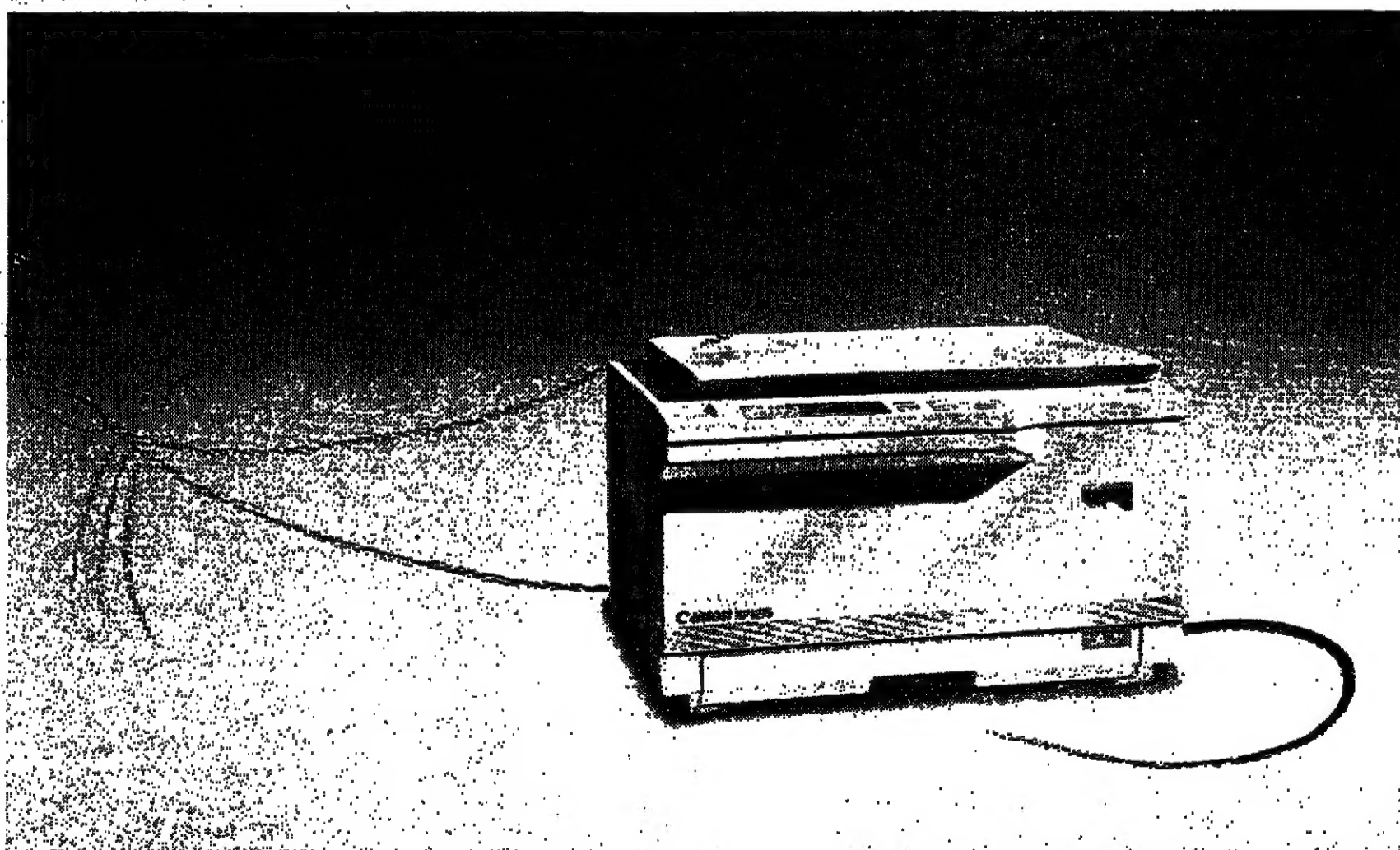
use. Volunteers were given 800 milligrams of ibuprofen three times a day, equivalent to 12 tablets, for up to 11 days.

After eight days, three women developed kidney failure, which reversed when ibuprofen was discontinued. The remaining nine, who received ibuprofen for 11 days, showed changes in kidney function but did not develop kidney failure.

The findings will be examined by the Government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines, and by Boots. Packets of Nurofen carry warnings that anyone receiving medical treatment should seek advice from their doctor about their use.

Boots said: "Ibuprofen is widely regarded as one of the safest of all pain relievers. We note that the American study involves only 12 patients with underlying conditions, and see no cause for concern."

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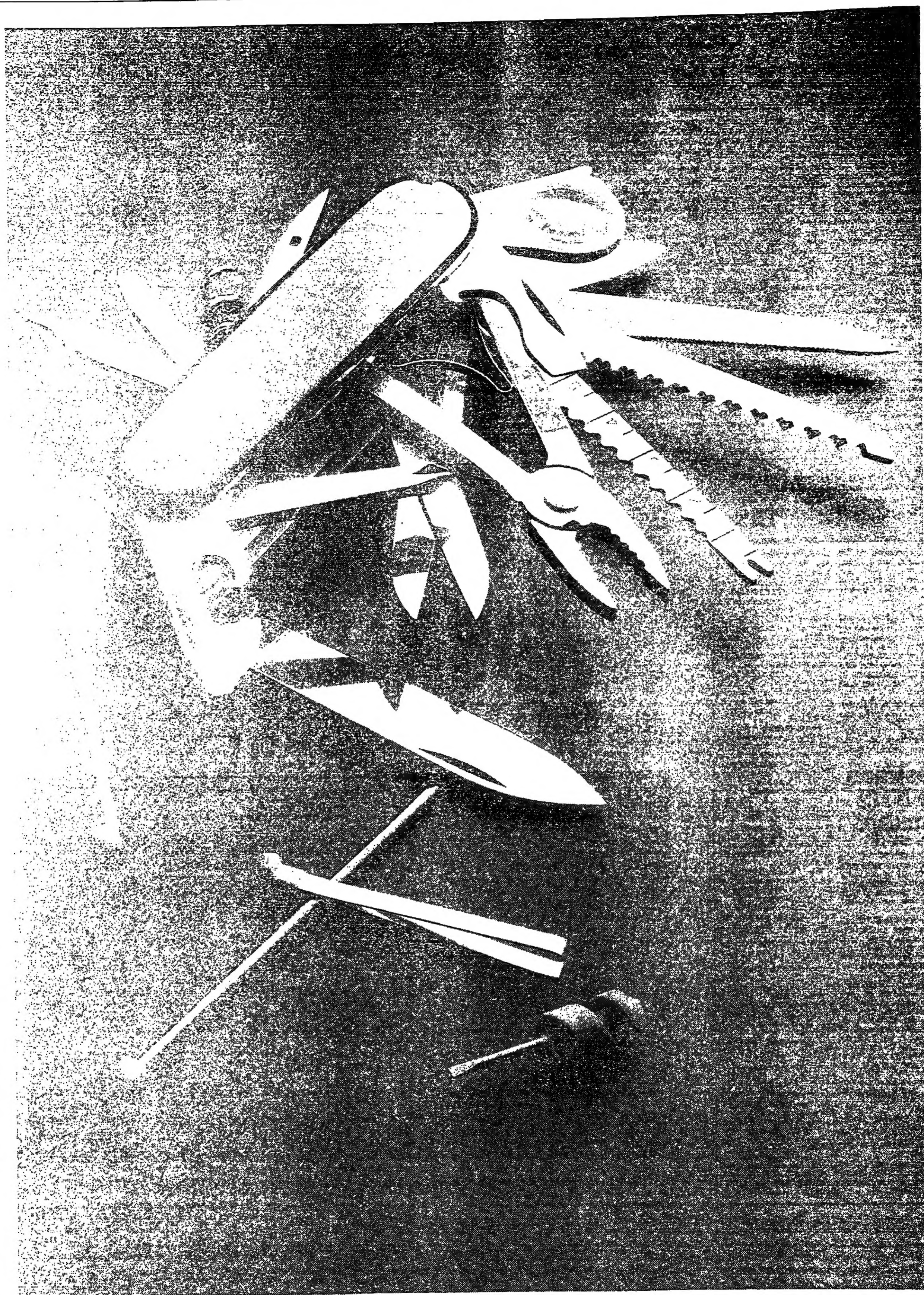
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Jubilant left claims teachers' leader has picked wrong target



Mr McAvoy: Wants to speak to teachers at home

By David Tyler
Education Editor

CRIS of "resign" greeted Mr. Doug McAvoy's entry into the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers yesterday as the ultra left scented success in its demands for national strikes.

The union's general secretary had infuriated the left wing yesterday by claiming that the Militant Tendency had shaped the conference's agenda to suit its own ends. The left's main complaint seemed to be that he had picked the wrong target.

The success of building on the widespread anger of teachers goes

to a coalition of the ultra left, mostly outside Militant.

Mr Ian Murch, a member of the executive from Bradford, who proposed the motion that set the Bournemouth conference on the path to calling for illegal secondary strike action, is a co-founder of the Campaign for a Democratic Union but is not a supporter of Militant.

Nor is he a member of the well-organized Socialist Teachers' Alliance, co-founded by Mr Bernard Regan, a London teacher and one of the 10 or 12 hard-left members who make up about a quarter of the NUT's national executive.

The alliance, with 700 members, has its roots in the International

Marxist Group. The Campaign for a Democratic Union, the other hard-left group, stemmed from a rank-and-file organization which was disbanded in 1976 and had close links with the Socialist Workers' Party.

The organizations link together at the conference to cause the maximum discomfort to the largely moderate, and now clearly shaken, national executive which has failed to swing delegates behind it.

The tactics of the ultra left have much in common with Trotskyist groups in making impossible demands, such as a flat-rate pay rise of £3,000 a year and calls for strikes

on every issue. Miss Anita Dickinson, the London teacher whose article in the *Militant* newspaper claimed that its supporters had been influential in shaping the conference agenda, yesterday made no apologies for being a supporter of Militant.

She said: "Doug McAvoy tried to use scare tactics to intimidate delegates to vote against the motion. His scare tactics claiming that conference was being manipulated did not work."

Mr McAvoy himself was unrepentant, claiming the heckling was clearly being organized by political groups.

He was elected general secretary

of the 190,000-strong union last year with a considerable majority after 15 years as deputy general secretary. Before that he taught in Newcastle upon Tyne. Now aged 51, his political views have softened and he believes persuasion is one of the union's most useful weapons.

It would be wrong to say that the strike weapon has been abandoned entirely but Mr McAvoy believes that the membership in the country is not prepared to strike.

He said: "I would not support any attempt to take the union into illegal action. The members will not do it, therefore a decision of conference asking them to do

something they will not do is unworkable." Mr McAvoy says his main aim is to give the union back to the members who stay away from local meetings in droves.

Most of the meetings which elect delegates and propose motions are inquorate and all very badly attended, allowing the ultra left to get into a position where they have captured the conference.

Mr McAvoy is clearly anxious to speak over the heads of conference to the members at home. He said: "Political factions have always sought to find any vehicle to ride on. The NUT is a pretty sizeable vehicle and I don't want them to grab the steering wheel."

Classes at risk from strikes by staff over pay and jobs

By Douglas Broom and David Tyler

SCHOOLS in England and Wales were last night facing months of disruption after strike calls at the conference of two teachers' unions.

As delegates representing 170,000 members of the National Union of Teachers voted to call for national strikes to defend the jobs of staff threatened with redundancy, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers conference was told that pay strikes were likely to resume in the autumn.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary designate, told the NAS/UTW conference in Scarborough: "Every pay increase we have secured since 1969 has been preceded by

action of some kind. I believe that anyone who calls himself a trade unionist should be prepared to stand up and fight by taking action."

"There has been a deliberate campaign by the right-wing press to portray this as unfavourable and something that should be relegated to the last century. Nothing could be further from the truth."

"The ambulance workers have shown that we have got to be prepared to stand and fight for our case. The teachers are in the same situation now. It can only be a question of time before anger spreads more widely than NAS/UTW membership."

Mr de Gruchy expected the government announcement

in September of the cash limit on next year's teachers' pay award to be the trigger for strikes, and the conference will today vote on a motion giving the executive power to hold a strike ballot at any time.

However, Mr de Gruchy made clear that he would resist calls for a boycott of GCSE and A-Level examination work in the run-up to strikes. "That is like using a nuclear weapon and we are not convinced that it would work," he told delegates representing the union's 118,000 members.

Meanwhile, the NUT deferred all discussion on pay to a special conference in October, effectively ruling out a national pay strike this year.

Union officials will embark on a massive consultation exercise during the summer term to discover what action their members would be prepared to take in support of a renewed pay campaign.

Mr Bill Greenfield, of Ilkstone, Derbyshire, told the Bournemouth conference: "We need to get away from the old style debates and start a period of building rather than posturing," a view echoed by Mr David Furness, of Matlock, who said: "Immediate strike action is not the answer to all our problems of the past 10 miserable years."

While the two unions' leaders differed in their approach to the pay campaign, they were at one on the question of striking over redundancies.

Mr Fred Smithies, the outgoing NAS/UTW general secretary, said he supported the view of Mr Doug McAvoy, his NUT counterpart, that it would be illegal to stage national strikes over redundancies declared by individual school governing bodies.

However, Mr Smithies said his union was ready to stage local "retaliatory" strikes if teachers were made redundant because of poll-tax capping or by governors attempting to balance the books under new school funding formulas.

It is far from certain that all of the 170,000 claimed by the NAS/UTW are actually teaching in state schools. Many are retired or under training.

NAS/UTW and the AMMA have been locked in a battle for second place for years.

The NAS/UTW claims 118,000, the AMMA says it has 120,000, but almost a sixth of those are in the private sector.

PAT says it has more than 40,000 members, taking the total to 448,000 even before the two head teacher organizations have laid claim to their share of the market.

Fierce struggle for union members

By Douglas Broom

BEHIND the future over allegations that the conference of Britain's biggest teachers' union has been hijacked by the Militant Tendency lies a fierce struggle for membership between six teaching unions.

Mr Doug McAvoy's defeat at the hands of the militants in Bournemouth is not only a setback for moderation and the "new realism", that he came to personify, but poses a real danger to the union's position as the biggest teachers' organisation.

The Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association and the Professional Association of Teachers (PAT), which bans its members from taking any kind of strike action, stand to reap the benefits.

At stake is the share each union will take of the 12,500 new teachers who will graduate from the teacher training institutions in September.

The majority of NUT members work in primary schools, where its losses to the AMMA and PAT, were far worse in the period up to 1987 than in any other sector of education.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, gen-

eral secretary of the second largest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, yesterday urged his members to be ready to strike in the autumn.

He privately admits, however, that striking costs members. "We lose members every time we go on strike," he said.

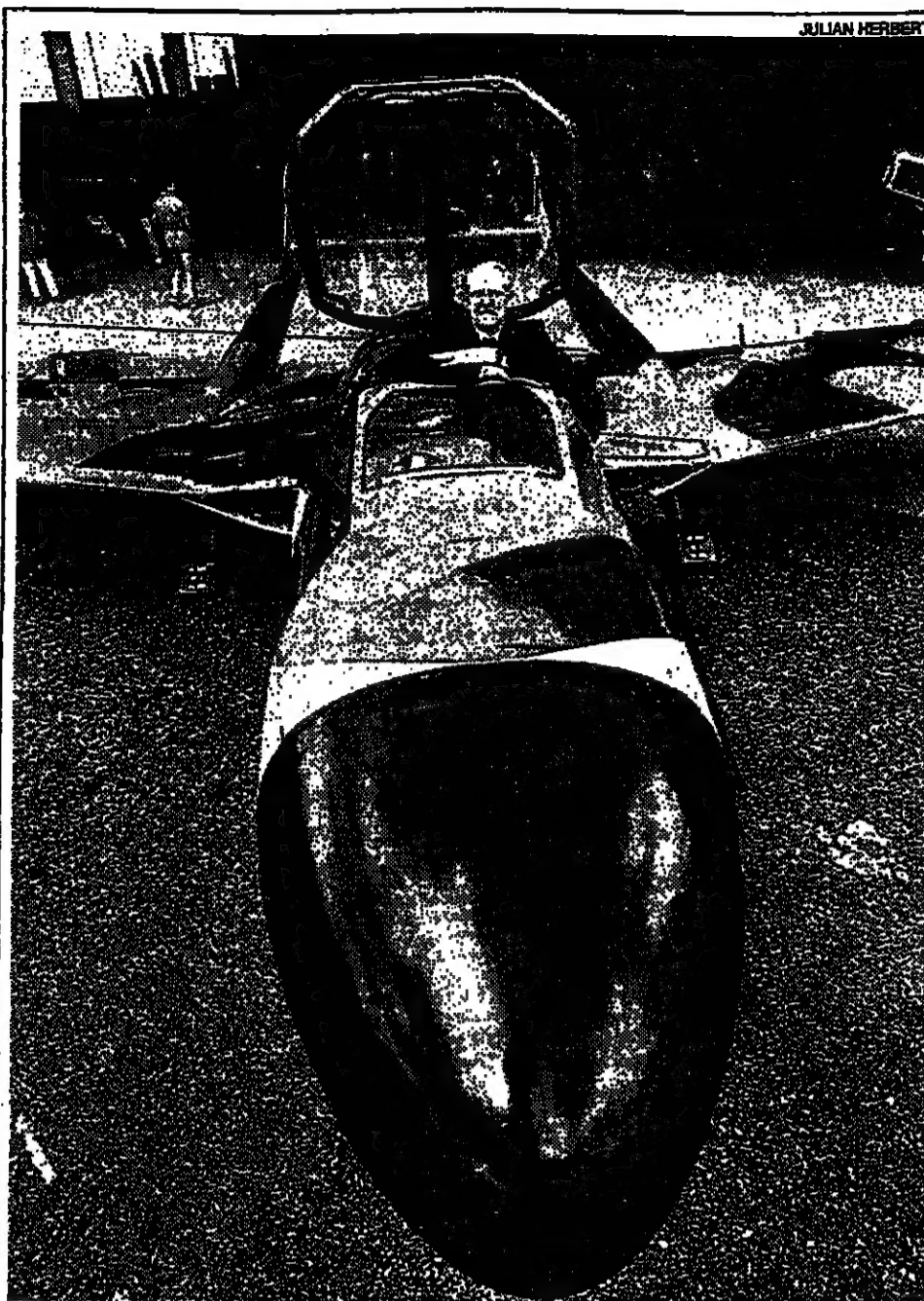
"It is an insult to our members to suggest that we would ask them to give up a day's pay just because we are on a recruitment drive."

It is far from certain that all of the 170,000 claimed by the NAS/UTW are actually teaching in state schools. Many are retired or under training.

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Mr Bob Myatt in the cockpit of a De Havilland Venom he flew with the RAF 33 years ago. The restored aircraft went on display at the RAF Museum at London Colney, Hertfordshire, on Sunday

College funding blocked

By Ruth Gledhill

FUNDING for one of London's most renowned colleges has been suspended because of a report which found serious financial and managerial problems.

An unpublished report to the council of Morley College calls for a new management structure and other radical reforms to save the college.

Funding for the college, which has been allocated £1.3 million by the London Residuary Body for this financial year, has been put on hold from the end of this academic year in August. A source close

to the college said: "The LRB will need some reassurances that the structure has been properly rearranged before they hand over more money."

A three-man inquiry team, led by Lord Henderson of Brompton, found "a number of problems" at Morley, the source said.

The 100-year-old adult education college in Waterloo was the subject of a lengthy campaign to prevent its closure with the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority.

Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the LRB, said the

college was "a very necessary part of adult education in inner London". A joint executive committee had been set up to produce a financial and administrative framework to ensure its future.

Referring to a report that left-wing teachers had refused to register students he added: "I was not aware of this action. But if this is so it makes the problems at Morley College rather more difficult than I had anticipated."

Mrs Janet Roberts, the principal, was not available for comment.

Lino is back to end 30 lost years

By Kerry Gill

THE nostalgia boom that has seen the return of men's braces, battered leather suitcases and the flashy Ford Zephyr is to be joined by yet another product of the years of austerity: linoleum.

For the past 30 years or so, the cheap floor covering made from natural materials including hessian, jute, linseed oil, pine tree resin and wood flour, has been as outmoded as petrol coupons, de-mob suits and Teddy boys.

Once found in almost every home, lino disappeared to be replaced by stripped pine and tiled carpets. However, the UK's last remaining manufacturer yesterday announced its first new range of domestic lino in 20 years.

Forbo-Nairn, of Kirkcaldy in Fife, which began producing lino in 1877, launched its new range in 10 pastel colours after an upsurge in demand for the flooring used by a generation of baby boomers to express their distaste for cod liver oil.

Mr Alan Lawson, deputy managing director of Forbo-Nairn, said the move came after a £2.5 million investment to modernize and improve production processes.

"Things do move in cycles and this combination of green and hygiene is one that can give us a marketing edge. If we had invented the product today, it would be hailed as one of the most fantastic developments of all time."

The company employs 500 people with 120 directly involved in lino production, and accounts for some 90 per cent of Britain's £12 million contract lino market, mostly hospitals.

One of lino's advantages is that it continues to mature and toughen after being laid — as anyone who stripped the stuff to make way for the G-plan look in the early 1960s will bear witness. It is also resistant to common chemicals and domestic spillages. Forbo-Nairn offers a 20-year guarantee.

Kirkcaldy, which used to be the world centre for lino production, may even get its unique smell back — described by Mr Lawson as linseed oil on a cricket bat. Remember?

Hopes of £10m bonus for BBC

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

THE BBC expects to receive an unexpected bonus worth at least £10 million a year due to an apparent change of heart by the Government over the licence fee.

For the past three years the licence fee has increased in line with the retail prices index, but ministers indicated in the broadcasting White Paper that from April 1991 increases would be less than the RPI, to take account of income earned from new subscription services.

"If subscription goes well it may be possible to freeze or even reduce the licence fee," the blueprint added.

However, Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, disclosed in an interview with *The Times* that the Home Office had not told the BBC of such "RPI minus" plans and he expected increases in the licence fee to continue to be inflation-linked. "My own view is that the RPI licence fee will remain until the whole thing comes up under the charter [in 1996]," he said. "The licence fee is fantastic value for money."

The effect of such a change can be gauged from the most recent increase in the licence fee from £66.22 to £71.24, which was based on the RPI of 7.6 per cent last September. With about 20 million licence fee payers, the increase in income will be £100 million.

Assuming a similar inflation rate for next year's licence fee increase, the additional income from a fully indexed rise would be about £108 million. Even a 1 per cent cut on an RPI-based increase would have cost the BBC £10 million a year.

Negotiations between the Home Office and the BBC over future licence fee increases should begin shortly. The BBC is planning subscription services which will be "downloaded" during night hours to specialist users such as lawyers, financiers and farmers and yachtmen.

The Home Office said last night: "We have not had any discussions on the licence changes."

My BBC battles, page 21

Footpath fight faces cash hitch

By Peter Davenport

A PROJECT to repair footpaths in the Three Peaks area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, scarred by the worst erosion of its kind in the country, is in danger of being prematurely halted because of lack of funds.

A £100,000 shortfall in the £800,000 budget for the five-year scheme, begun in 1987, threatens to end the programme a year early when the project team is on the verge of its most important work.

Mr Simon Rose, the project leader, said yesterday that unless the money was found by next March, staff would have to be laid off.

"The programme in the Three Peaks was always seen as a test-bed for a lot of similar upland problem areas elsewhere," he said.

"Our belief was that the lessons learned here, dealing with footpath erosion on a scale never before seen in this country, could be transferred to other situations."

"The work has a national significance and it would be crazy to allow it to end when it would be four years into a five-year programme."

The problems on Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Wharfedale, each rising to more than 2,000ft and dominating the heart of the Dales National Park, have been caused by the sheer amount of human traffic.

Each year about a quarter of a million walkers tramp along well-worn footpaths which have been gradually widened until they have become swampy rural "motorways", defacing the landscape and presenting serious conservation and restoration problems.

In 1987 the National Park set up its five-year programme to investigate a variety of possible techniques for repair-

ing the paths involving a range of solutions from the encouragement of natural vegetation to the use of artificial surfaces.

Originally £250,000 of funding was to have come through the Community Programme but the National Park withdrew from the scheme after only a year, because of a change in the rules covering the eligibility of those able to take part, having received only £50,000.

Extra finance from the National Park Committee, which was already committed to some £350,000, and a grant from the Sports Council reduced the expected shortfall to £100,000. The National Park

has submitted an application to the Department of the Environment for extra funds to complete the programme but hopes that it will be successful are not high.

It is already feeling financially hard-pressed, expressing "disappointment" at its government grant for this year and concern that suggested spending restrictions over the next three years will mean annual reductions, in real terms, of 5 per cent.

Appeals have also been made to the Countryside Commission, which has already given £200,000, and to the Nature Conservancy Council, which has provided £75,000. The aim of the

view the 200-acre site without leaving one small room on the grounds.

For the world's biggest camera obscura has been built close to the heart of the development, which takes in two miles of reclaimed riverside at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

The device, a mechanism of lenses and mirrors, will allow up to 200 visitors at a time to view images of the festival on a curved viewing plate in a light-proof room.

Camera obscuras are based on a principle discovered by the ancient Greeks. Gateshead's obscura uses a rotating mirrored plate to project light downwards through a 15ft vertical set of mirrors and lenses, on to the viewing surface.

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Racecourse arson by rights group

ANIMAL rights campaigners have claimed responsibility for a fire that badly damaged a stand at Aintree racecourse.

Firemen took nearly two hours to control the blaze at the Old Lord Derby Stand, which workmen had begun demolishing after the Grand National meeting.

Yesterday the Animal Liberation Front said in a statement it started the fire over the Bank Holiday weekend "as an act of retribution for the horses killed during the Grand National".

Seven horses died in the three-day Aintree meeting.

Leicestershire police said yesterday that they were not chasing a high-powered car stolen by two teenagers who were killed when it crashed head-on into a car driven by an elderly couple near Frisby on Monday afternoon. The elderly couple were also killed in the crash.

Drugs charge

Thomas Barton, aged 65, of Edge Hill, Liverpool, was remanded in custody by Dover magistrates yesterday charged with illegally importing cannabis resin with a street value of about £140,000 on Easter Monday. Mr Barton was arrested at Dover Hoverport.

Boys suspended

At least seven boys have been suspended from Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire, the Roman Catholic public school, pending the result of a police investigation into an alleged sixth form drugs ring.

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12,000	435.28	306.29	218.08	195.32
15,000	544.09	382.86	272.60	244.16

Example - for a loan of £5,000 repayable over five years without repayment protection, there are 60 monthly repayments of £127.62 and the total repayable is £7,657.20 (APR 19.8% variable).

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PURPOSE OF LOAN

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Muslim voters hold key as two parties battle

By Jamie Dettmer

MR MOHAMMED Riaz resigned five months ago from the Bradford Labour Party and crossed over the council chamber to become the first Asian in the city's history to sit on the Conservative benches.

His defection may prove at the local elections on May 3 to be an astute move and a harbinger of a significant change in Muslim politics in Bradford.

In the wake of the controversy over Salman Rushdie's novel, *The Satanic Verses*, Muslims have started, on a larger scale than ever before, to break out of a political straitjacket which had left them more observers than participants in the mainstream of British politics.

Traditionally, the Asian Muslim vote has gone to the Labour Party, a response to the perceived racism of Conservative politicians. With the rise of an Asian middle class and the emergence into adulthood of a new generation of more confident British Asians, that could change.

The Rushdie affair has hastened the coming of age of British Muslims. It has led them to become aware of British political realities.

Mr Riaz is not the only signal of a rusting in the

undergrowth in Bradford, which first received substantial numbers of Asian immigrants in the 1950s. The 30,000 or so Asian voters in the West Yorkshire city will this year see Muslim candidates battling it out against each other in two wards, University and Toller, in a fight that could well determine whether Labour recaptures a city narrowly controlled by the Tories since 1988.

Labour needs four net gains in the election to take back the city from the bluff Yorkshire Thatcherite, Mr Eric Pickles, who in two years has forced through a huge privatization programme.

Thirty-two seats are up for election this year—two are by-

elections. Despite the huge national swing to Labour, it will be a close-run thing in Bradford. Labour is defending the majority of the seats.

The community charge is less of an issue in Bradford than in neighbouring towns. At £276 it compares favourably with Leeds and Wakefield. That, however, will not be enough to hand Bradford back to Labour, according to Mr Riaz, who is standing in the University ward, which is 80 per cent Asian. "A lot of Asians used to vote Labour because they looked upon themselves as working class," he said. "But the 1980s has long gone. Times have changed and you find Asians in all walks of life

now—in business and in the professions."

He says that Labour made a fatal mistake during the Rushdie affair. The local Labour MPs and councillors were not sensitive to the reasons for the "burn the book" protests in the city.

"Rushdie brought everything to the surface and exposed Labour. People who had been loyal to Labour for years were upset that the party could not understand the importance of religion."

The British Asian community has been a one-party one, according to Mr Riaz. "Now it wants a two-party system."

That view is endorsed by key figure in Bradford's Muslim community, Mr Liaqat Hussain, general secretary of the powerful Council of Mosques, which was at the forefront of the anti-Rushdie protest.

Dressed in traditional garb, Mr Hussain is a virtual opposite to the suited and Western oriented Mr Riaz. But he too sees the emergence of a two-party system. However, unlike Mr Riaz, his goal is for less social integration of Asian Muslims.

"We come from a background with a different political structure and it has not been easy to understand your one," he said.



Mr Riaz: "Labour had made a fatal mistake"



Mr Pickles: Cut jobs through privatization

Defying gravity in the garage



Clinging like a bat to the underside of a garage roof near his home in Rossendale, Lancashire, Mr Mark Leach, a member of the British rock climbing team, trains for the World Cup climbing competition starting next month in Vienna. Mr

Leach, aged 26, has made a specialty of defying gravity on overhangs that could not be more overhanging (Ronald Faux writes). His technique is to brace hands against feet on the holds, and to wedge fingers and toes in cracks above him. The

world champion in this exotic field, Mr Simon Nadin, aged 24, of Buxton, Derbyshire, will defend his title against continental climbers who have the Alps to practice upon. The strong British contingent expects to do well.

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LOAN PERIOD	12 Mths	12 Mths	24 Mths	24 Mths	36 Mths	36 Mths
ON THE ROAD PRICE††	8290.00	9400.00	8290.00	9400.00	8290.00	9400.00
MIN DEPOSIT	50%	50%	40%	40%	30%	30%
DEPOSIT	4145.08	4700.08	3316.00	3760.00	2487.00	2820.00
MONTHLY PAYMENT*	345.41	391.66	223.42	253.33	194.56	220.61
FINANCE CHARGES	NIL	NIL	398.08†	449.92†	1211.16†	1371.96†
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PEUGEOT. THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Scottish Labour Party delays roof tax figures

By Kerry Gill

THE LABOUR Party in Scotland may not publish detailed figures relating to its proposed property tax, an alternative to the community charge, before the forthcoming local government elections on May 3, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Donald Dewar, the opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that independent, academic researchers were working out the precise sums likely to be paid and these would only be published once the work was completed.

Labour, which announced its alternative tax earlier this year, has been criticized for not revealing costing for the so-called roof tax while at the same time claiming that it would be much fairer, based on the ability to pay, and benefit people living in mod-

est homes and on modest incomes.

Mr Dewar said he would not indulge in "back of the envelope" calculations and refused to be tied to a strict timetable when he launched the party's regional election campaign in Glasgow.

Frustrated about Labour's failure to produce figures, he said: "We are not going to go in for back of envelope jobs and the kind of ludicrous arithmetic that Mr Forsyth [chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party] has been producing."

"We have got independents working on it; it is difficult because there are a very large number of variables. The important thing is that the poll tax has shifted the burden of taxation against areas that are deprived, areas of low income, and there is no argument from anyone that a property-based assessment of the kind we are proposing will reverse that trend."

It has been suggested by Mr John Maxton, the party's spokesman on local government, that the roof tax could work out at about £600 for each household in Scotland. Mr Dewar agreed that this was a plausible figure and much more reasonable than the figures bandied about by the Tories.

Mr Dewar accused the Government of a betrayal of trust over the poll tax. He said: "The vast majority of Scots know the poll tax is unjust and unacceptable. Scottish Office ministers have the power to do something about this overwhelming and justified grievance. They refuse to act and that refusal is a betrayal of trust."

He said Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, was determined that the Conservative Party would "proudly fight on the community charge" and that it was here to stay. "This," Mr Dewar said, "is no more than shrill bravado. He has only to look at the panic on his own benches to know the ground is shifting under his own feet."

Crofters fear loss of grants

By Kerry Gill

THE Government's plan to hand ownership of crofting estates to crofters in the Highlands and Islands is being eyed with suspicion by tenants who fear that they will lose vital grants and loans.

Crofters were surprised last month when the Government announced that it was prepared to transfer or to sell more than 100,000 acres held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Scotland (DAFS), to community ownership, with pilot schemes on the islands of Skye and Raasay.

The Scottish Crofters' Union, which has 4,600 members out of the estimated 8,000 crofters in the Highlands and Islands, gave a cautious welcome to the scheme, whose consultation period ends on June 30.

Even so, many crofters feel that the Government is simply trying to get rid of its financial commitments to the crofting estates. At present, only crofting tenants qualify for grants and loan assistance.

Some crofters doubt the viability of the proposed crofting community trusts.

Mr Donald Cameron, of North Scurrybreck, Skye, said: "DAFS' tenants who are happy to adhere to the status quo are anxious not to be thrown to the wolves."

Mr Adam Gilmour, of Achachork, Portree, Skye, said that if a trust got into financial difficulties, it could fall into private hands.



Mr Dewar: £600 per roof a "plausible" figure

Nissan money restores opera for school pupils

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

LOW-PRICE matinees for schoolchildren at the Royal Opera House, which were threatened by spending cuts, have been saved, thanks to a £750,000 sponsorship from Nissan (UK).

Earlier this year the opera house announced that the six performances a year—three of ballet, three of opera—would have to be scrapped because its budget was no longer sufficient to cover the £3.5m rate seat price.

Although given an 11 per

cent funding increase in the Arts Council budget for 1990-91, Mr Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, said at the time that there was still a deficit of £3 million to be cleared in the 1989-90 financial year.

The car company sponsorship, announced yesterday, will run for three years. It restores artistic events which after 13 years had become an institution, introducing 12,000 children a year to top-class performances.

Amc
Seces
bann
crack

Prime
minister
Nepal

Mr Dewar: £600 per roof a "plausible" figure

Americans rush to jump on the greener-than-thou bandwagon

From Charles Bremner
New York

WHO cares the most deeply about Planet Earth? Meryl Streep, the Du Pont Chemical Company, the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the "green" guys of San Francisco? Judging from appearances this week the answer would be a dead heat.

You would have to reach back to the Second World War to find a time when so many strange bedfellows have united in common cause as they have this week as America gears up to celebrate Earth Day, next Sunday's "High Mass" to the environment.

On that day, hundreds of thousands of citizens from President Bush to Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles will embrace the planet with rituals ranging from holistic humming through tree-planting to watching a televised "E-Day spectacular" performed by Barbra Streisand, Dustin Hoffman and a bevy of old-hand eco-stars such as Peter, Paul and Mary. In Washington, the zoo elephants will stomp on aluminum cans. In Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, they will hold

a "Multi-media meditation to heal Planet Earth".

In Rochester, New York, Glen McClure, the folk singer, will perform on an instrument composed entirely of rubbish. On Mount Everest, Mother Earth News will broadcast messages into space from the Pope and Ann Landers, the agony columnist "to travel through the Universe forever".

The United States may have come late to the green movement, thanks to the distractions of the Reagan-era binge, but nobody could fault it now for lack of zeal. With the fervor of repentant alcoholics, corporate polluters, right-wing Republicans, investment banks, fast-food chains and others have clambered aboard a wagon already loaded with rock stars and Hollywood stars.

To the hardcore ecologists who were scorned through the 1980s like old-time Soviet dissidents, this mood of greener-than-thou smacks of too much of a good thing. Could it really be true, they wonder, that the FBI, which hounded the young organizers of the first Earth Day in 1970, has set up an exhibition on

conservation in the foyer of their Washington headquarters?

Shrewd operators like the then Vice-President George Bush saw it coming. Alerted by their polling, the candidate's strategists presented him in 1988 as the future "environmental president", a role that is only now wearing a little thin. A New York Times poll found yesterday that 66 per cent of the public believes "he has mainly just talked" about the subject.

It took the public relations disaster of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in March last year to alert the commercial world to the urgency of the green cause. This month, with supermarkets, banks and town halls awash with green messages, it seems few products or services are being marketed without a claim to environmental sanction. IBM, ATT, Mobil, Du Pont, have all taken the pledge and are running green advertising.

"Change the World One Diaper at a Time," says the slogan for TenderCare biodegradable nappies. McDonalds hamburgers, which produces hundreds of thousands of tonnes of paper and

plastic waste annually, leaped early into the crusade. Among other steps, it has just cut 500 tonnes of waste by shortening its drinking straws.

From New York to Los Angeles, yesterday's yuppies have taken with glee to eco-shopping. No New York furniture shop will display teak without explaining its origins. For those who care to combine a political statement with dessert, Ben and Jerry's ice-cream, a marketing phenomenon of the 1980s, has just launched a new flavour — "Rainforest Crunch".

Then there are the books, bumper stickers and other paraphernalia. Whole forests have been converted into best-sellers with titles such as *50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth*, (accompanied by the 365 Things... etc calendar), *The Earth Care Annual*, *The Green Lifestyle Handbook* and *Shopping for a Better World*.

A dose of humbug has inevitably accompanied the hype. Prosecutors around the country are trying to curb the more egregious examples. Mobil was forced to retract eco-friendly claims for

an oil. The Minnesota attorney-general rolled a grocery trolley filled with spurious "environmental products" in front of a press conference.

In Hollywood too, where the stars have all moved into eco-alignment, there has been trouble. Olivia Newton-John, appointed as the United Nations' honorary environment ambassador, is now being sued for dumping waste on her beach front.

While some old-school greens resent what they see as the hijacking of their cause, others believe that the new ecocapitalism among politicians and business is not just opportunism but also reflects a genuine sense of alarm. Mr Gaylord Nelson, who organized the original Earth Day, says: "Most businesses have bad records, and some are just after a public relations gimmick... But there are a lot of business people now who are concerned and we ought to let those sinners repent."

The mainstream conservationists, such as the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society, are working to hold the country to the good intentions of the E-Day

crescendo. Companies are being asked to sign the "Valdez Principles," a charter in which they commit themselves to ecological goals, and born-again political greens are being closely monitored for their actions. One, for example, is Mr Bob Martinez, the Republican Governor of Florida. In his 1986 campaign, he never mentioned the environment once. His re-election drive this year opened with television commercials portraying him as one of the most ecologically-aware politicians.

With even hard-nosed Republicans now talking like Greenpeace eco-warriors, the environment has turned into a motherhood issue — something no one will oppose. "Suddenly the environment has become like Sotheby's," says Mr Fred Krupp, director of the Environmental Defence Fund. "Bush has set in motion a bidding process where the two parties are proving which candidate, which party is the greener."

The true test will come when politicians face decisions on policies which involve true sacrifices among their voters.

Secessionist groups banned as Kashmir crackdown hardens

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

THE Indian Government has banned eight secessionist groups in Kashmir as it carries out its biggest security operation to bring the strife-torn valley under control.

The drive is also being aimed at newspapers carrying hostile anti-Indian articles. The seizure of two printing presses will stop the publication of three Urdu-language newspapers, one of them the popular daily, *Al-Bal*.

In little more than a week security forces have arrested nearly 300 people, including some described as leaders of subversive groups. The banned organizations include the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the Pakistan-based group that is regarded by India as the biggest threat.

Mr Anamullah Khan, its leader, has been touring the United States to publicize his cause, much to India's anger. He operates openly from an office in Rawalpindi, a cause of tension between Delhi and Islamabad.

Until recently, leaders of pro-secessionist groups have lived openly in Srinagar, the state capital, and other towns, but since the new crackdown they have gone underground. Banning the groups will give security forces a freer hand.

The state government said in Srinagar that the banned organizations were indulging in terrorist and secessionist activities, creating an atmosphere of subversion and "challenging the sovereignty, integrity and unity of the

country". The newspapers being forced to close were accused by the authorities of inciting violence and terrorism.

One of them, *Al-Bal*, carried a front-page story last week-end, saying that one of the secessionist groups that is now banned, Hizbul Mujahidin, has asked Kashmiri Hindus and other non-Muslim "settlers" in Kashmir to leave the valley within two days. After that they would face "dire consequences".

The story caused widespread alarm among non-Muslims and appears to have prompted a surge of migration from the valley. Two days later, two leading dailies carried details of the story.

The state administration has decided to mount prosecutions under anti-terrorist legislation against several pub-

lications for publishing what it calls objectionable articles aimed at inciting violence and fear.

The crackdown appears to have brought some results in the valley, where bombings and shootings have declined sharply in recent days.

State authorities have tested the atmosphere in the past two days by relaxing the round-the-clock curfew for a few hours a day, allowing people to buy essential commodities. Vehicles were banned from the roads, but thousands of people swarmed from their homes to stock up.

There has also been a marked scaling down of war fever in the Pakistani press, which had done much to inflame public opinion and raise the expectation of armed conflict.

Iran's interest in conflict deepens

From Zahid Hussain, Karachi

IRAN'S strong protest to the Indian Government over its use of violence against Kashmiri Muslims reveals Tehran's growing interest in the separatist struggle for self-determination in Kashmir.

Mr Mostafa Sarvestani, a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Tehran, expressed Iran's concern on Sunday about the deteriorating situation in Indian Kashmir, saying that violence and force could not solve the issue.

Mr Sarvestani said that by detaining fasting Muslims, the Indian Government not only injured the religious sentiments of Muslims throughout the world, but also eliminated the possibility of a peaceful solution in Kashmir.

He urged the Indian Government to take the necessary steps to pave the way for a peaceful settlement of the long-standing Kashmir dispute. Iran has also offered to mediate between India and Pakistan. India has not so far replied.

Iran is the only Muslim country other than Pakistan to have supported the Kashmiri Muslims' struggle for separation from India. In January this year, Tehran asked Mr Indrajit Gujral, the Indian Foreign Minister, to cancel his visit to Iran in protest at

violence against Kashmiri Muslims.

Tehran's sympathy for the Kashmiri secessionist movement is significant, since some of the Shia Muslim sect groups are said to be active in the Kashmir uprising, with the late Khomeini's picture prominently featured in processions in Srinagar before the recent crackdown.

Significantly, representatives of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hezbollah participated in a seminar on the *Jihad* (Holy War) in Kashmir organized by the Azad Kashmir government in Rawalpindi last month. The presence of the Hezbollah leader at the seminar caused some concern to Miss Benazir Bhutto's Government in Pakistan.

Miss Bhutto herself, meanwhile, is on a pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. She was expected to meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia yesterday. According to some sources, the two leaders were to discuss the increasing tensions on Pakistan's eastern borders with India.

Pakistan is reportedly consolidating its defence position outside Lahore, 15 miles from the Indian border. Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city, is seen as the most likely target of an Indian attack.



Nature-starved Japanese dial up ersatz wildlife

From Joe Joseph
Tokyo

TOKYO residents, who travel three or four hours out of the concrete capital to spot anything greener than a supermarket lettuce or any bird more useful than the screeching crows that monopolize the city's telephone wires, can now enjoy nature in their armchairs by picking up the telephone.

Instead of joining the weekend crush to country retreats that are, anyway, as crowded on a sunny Saturday afternoon as Wembley on Cup Final Day, Japan's frustrated nature lovers can now dial up a new telephone service that brings the soothing sound of birds and insects into their homes and offices.

Along with widely available video-

tapes that turn their television screens into small windows looking out onto a gently swaying forest or the serene cone of Mount Fuji, the nation's overworked corporate warriors can now come home, sit back, pick up the phone and enjoy a safari without the bother of mosquito bites.

The new service comes from the telecommunications giant, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, and began a week ago with the sounds of skylarks and cuckoos. It is called "Naka-naka 7979". *Naka-naka* translates, roughly, into "sweet-sweet".

There were 10,000 calls in the first week, which NTT thinks is a good start for a new service that has not yet been publicized. After the national advertising campaign begins later this

week, NTT is expecting millions of calls from nature-starved urbanites. To prevent people becoming hooked on ersatz wildlife, the woman who hosts the bird noises on the recordings ends her telephone safari by urging listeners to "please go out and try to find the real sounds for yourself".

But if city dwellers think the grass is always greener elsewhere, they may be baffled to learn that NTT is backing more than one horse by experimenting with a telephone service that plugs dailers into the hubbub of an airport, a train station, a crowded pub, or just a busy family kitchen.

Callers choose one of a range of these locations as background noise for their conversation. NTT says the service aims to be amusing and was

not designed to give errant husbands convincing-sounding alibis. This gimmick is only available at the Matsuya department store in the swanky Ginza shopping district of Tokyo. But NTT is considering whether and how to expand its noise-on-tap offerings.

● Battery breakthrough: Isuzu Motors, the Japanese carmaker, claims to have developed a battery that can be recharged in 10 seconds and produces 20 times more power for its weight than conventional versions, and expects to start commercial sales in two years. Because it uses activated carbon and diluted sulphuric acid, the battery should cause fewer environmental problems than mercury-based and other conventional types of battery, an Isuzu spokesman said.

Dropping in on Hong Kong



A British Airways Boeing 747 banking low yesterday over Prince Edward Road in Kowloon, Hong Kong, on its approach to the runway at Kai Tak. A new airport, planned for 1997, will allow less hazardous landings clear of residential areas

Inflation plummets in Brazil

From Louise Byrne
Rio de Janeiro

INFLATION in Brazil is expected to fall from 85 per cent to near zero for the first full month of the new Government of President Collor de Mello.

Senator Zelia Cardoso de Mello, the Economy Minister, announced the new figure set by Brasilia, saying workers' wages would, as a result, not rise in April. The drastic drop in inflation comes after four weeks of shock new economic measures announced by President Collor as he took office on March 15.

The minister claimed that the country had even experienced "deflation" of 0.3 per cent in the first 15 days of the new Government. For this reason, Brasilia felt justified in setting inflation at zero for this month. Workers would be able to negotiate wage increases with their employers if the official rate, due at the end of the month, turns out to be higher than zero per cent.

The drastic drop in inflation comes after the new Government set the prices of basic foodstuffs and froze much of the money in the country's bank accounts for 18 months.

Ortega calls for rebels to disarm

Managua

PRESIDENT Ortega of Nicaragua has increased Sandinista pressure on the President-elect, Señora Violeta Chamorro, to force the unconditional and immediate disarming of the Contras.

rebels, hitting on Monday that he was considering postponing the April 25 handover.

Señor Ortega's left-wing Sandinista Government has strongly rejected recent statements by hard-line Contra leaders and members of Señora Chamorro's election alliance that the rebels would remain armed in Nicaragua until big cuts are made in the Sandinista Army.

At a news conference on Monday, Señor Ortega said the Sandinistas were "analysing this situation" when asked if there would be a handover on April 25 if the Contras were not disarmed.

"We are very close to peace and very close to war," Señor Ortega said.

A Contra delegation was expected to arrive in Managua yesterday to discuss terms for a ceasefire with the Sandinistas, Señora Chamorro and United Nations officials.

Diplomats in Managua say that the Sandinistas are em-

phatic that the current command structure in the Sandinista Army remain untouched, although they have agreed the Army will be depoliticized and reduced.

In calling for the immediate disarming of the Contras and shrouding the April 25 inauguration in uncertainty, the Sandinistas could hope to force Señora Chamorro to make a deal on the Army, a senior Latin American diplomat said.

In earlier statements in Managua and talks last month with Mr Dan Quayle, the US Vice-President, Señor Ortega has said he would hand over the Government to Señora Chamorro even if the Contras were not disarmed.

The diplomat said the Sandinistas would pay a huge price if they decided not to hand over the Government, losing most, if not all, international backing and creating huge rifts inside Nicaragua.

Most of the estimated 10,000 Contras are in Nicaraguan territory. Under an accord reached in March between rebel leaders and Chamorro envoys they must move to internationally supervised enclaves for disarming after a verified ceasefire. (Reuters)

Jerusalem row over settlers flares again

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

TENSIONS between Christians and Jews in the Old City of Jerusalem, which abated briefly over the Easter weekend, flared again yesterday.

The Israeli press accused the Government of backing 150 hard-line Jewish settlers who have moved into premises claimed by the Greek Orthodox Church, sparking off violent confrontations.

There were calls for a special session of the Knesset to examine reports that a government committee on land questions had approved a budget of £4.6 million to enable the settlers to buy the lease on the disputed building, a ramshackle former hotel for Christian pilgrims next to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Yesterday, an unnamed Muslim businessman was said to be trying to buy the lease back on behalf of the Christian community. The settlers include Jewish (Jewish seminary) students.

The Jerusalem District Court yesterday upheld a magistrate's order evicting the settlers, and fined the settlers' lawyers for having obtained a four-day stay of eviction illegally. The settlers said they would appeal.

Last week, riots broke out as Arab Christians and Greek, Armenian and Catholic priests protested against the takeover of the hotel.

According to Israeli press reports, the settlers have the support of Mr David Levy, the Minister of Housing, and Mr Ariel Sharon, the former general noted for his right-wing views. Officials of the Armenian Church said an official claiming to represent Mr Levy had approached them with a view to buying buildings for Jewish settlers in the Armenian quarter as well.

The left-wing Israeli newspaper *Davar* said that the settlers' actions in the Christian quarter were not only causing needless damage to Israel but also bringing Muslims and Christians together in an alliance against the Jews.

The Religious Affairs Minister, Mr Zevulun Hammer, an Orthodox Jew, visited the scene of the dispute yesterday to "calm the situation". The Greek Orthodox leader, Patriarch Diodoros, said, however: "This problem will not be solved until the settlers go."

Settlers' leaders said they would stay to emphasize "the Jewish claim to the whole of Jerusalem".

The Old City violence spread to Nabulus, on the occupied West Bank, last weekend when leaders of the Catholic, Protestant and Greek Orthodox churches there held a march to protest against events in Jerusalem. Troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets, and a priest and an Arab girl were injured.

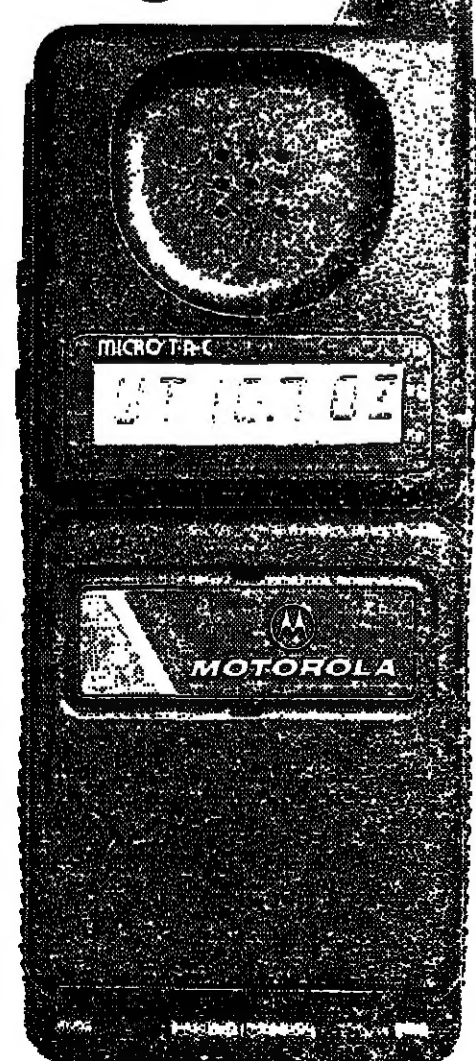
Meanwhile, Mr Sharon, Mr Levy and Mr Benjamin Begin intensified their campaign yesterday as leaders of the Likud right wing to force Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, to cancel his prospective coalition pact with the breakaway Liberal faction.

The dispute is expected to come to a head tomorrow when Likud holds a national convention. The right wing objects to Mr Shamir's reported offer to the Liberals of safe seats and ministerial jobs, with the Ministry of Finance going to Mr Yitzhak Modai, the faction's leader.

Protests erupted in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday as Palestinians demonstrated for the second day to commemorate the killing two years ago of the military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunis, Abu Jihad (also known as Khalil Wazir). Nearly 40 Palestinians were reported wounded in clashes with Israeli troops.

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ACTUAL SIZE

Muscovites rally to defend prosecutors of corrupt officials

From Nick Worrall, Moscow

TROOPS and police sealed off Red Square yesterday as thousands of demonstrators gathered in central Moscow to support two Soviet government investigators accused of committing "gross violations of the law" in their fight to expose corruption in high places.

In the Kremlin, adjoining the square, members of the Supreme Soviet debated a report by Mr Roy Medvedev, the former dissident historian. He is the chairman of a parliamentary commission which has been investigating the case of the two men, who appeared yesterday to have gone into hiding to escape arrest.

Mr Medvedev said the whole country had been discussing the fate of the two prosecutors, Mr Teimuraz Gdlyan and Mr Nikolai Ivanov, who successfully convicted for corruption the son-in-law of the late President Brezhnev in 1988.

The commission had confirmed that the two investigators committed "gross violations of the law" while conducting investigations in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan. It also

concluded that the Procurator's Office had been justified in dismissing them from leading the investigating team.

But the commission had failed to discover evidence that would testify to the guilt, as alleged by the investigators, of highly-placed officials, such as the leading Politburo conservative, Mr Yegor Ligachov.

Supreme Soviet deputies were handed the commission's report and a request from the Procurator's Office that the two men, who are also people's deputies, be stripped of their parliamentary privilege and arrested. Mr Medvedev said he was surprised that neither man had turned up for the session.

The Supreme Soviet's chairman, Mr Anatoly Lukyanov, said he believed Mr Gdlyan was currently in Armenia campaigning as a candidate in next month's republican parliamentary elections.

There was no hint of Mr Ivanov's whereabouts but it was reported from Leningrad, where he was elected to the Congress of People's Deputies in March 1989, that a demonstration of support had been held there too and that

city councillors had offered him "political asylum".

Beyond the police cordon in Moscow, protesters waved banners saying "Gdlyan and Ivanov, our conscience" and "Gdlyan and Ivanov, the people are with you".

Speakers, some of them Russian Federation deputies, denounced the Communist Party's Central Committee and President Gorbachev's Politburo for failing to act against corrupt officials.

Demonstrators shouted "Shame on the Central Committee, shame on Gorbachev." Many of them were voters from Zelenograd on the outskirts of Moscow who had elected Mr Gdlyan as their deputy.

In a move that surprised some observers, the Medvedev commission was sharply critical of the work and discipline of the Procurator's Office and recommended that the Procurator-General, Mr Alexander Sukharyov, be dismissed. During the debate, Mr Sukharyov tried to defend himself. But the deputies' stony silence as he sat down seemed to put a seal on his fate.

In a live broadcast on Leningrad television last week, which the authorities tried in vain to ban, Mr Ivanov accused Mr Sukharyov of being "the boss of all criminal cases", giving patronage and protection to crime groups and "Mafia members with Communist Party cards".

But there is almost certainly trouble ahead also for Mr Gdlyan and Mr Ivanov. Deputies voted by a substantial majority not to hear their written statement of defence. The two men were expelled in February from the Communist Party arousing public accusations at a Moscow rally that they were the victims of the very people they were trying to expose.

One deputy in yesterday's debate described the two men as "heroes of our time" while Mr Boris Yeltsin, the popular former Moscow City party boss, said he was not satisfied with the conclusions of the Medvedev commission and, in a broad hint that there was much deeper involvement still to be investigated, attacked the party's Politburo for not being tougher and acting sooner against corruption.

The Gdlyan-Ivanov investigation team was 1,000-strong at one time, with more than 200 full-time investigators. Up to 15 of those will face prosecution.

The Medvedev commission had investigated about a dozen cases where people, who had been interrogated by the team, later committed suicide. They had found cases where officials who had taken bribes were reinstated after giving evidence.

Letters had been received by the commission alleging that threatened and actual physical violence had been used in the course of interrogations.



Housewives' choice: Two angry Moscow housewives denouncing corrupt officials during a Red Square rally yesterday attended by thousands of ordinary citizens in the defence of two beleaguered Soviet investigators

Albania signals wish to restore UK links

From Richard Bassett, Saranda Bay, Albania

FEW thorns in the side of relations between nations appear so deceptively calm as does Saranda Bay.

Here, along the pine-clad shores of ancient Illyria, danger seems remote but, as the Royal Navy found to its cost, these clear blue waters once held uncharted perils.

Two British destroyers, HMS Volage and HMS Saumarez, struck mines on October 22, 1946. Volage came off better with only seven killed. Saumarez lost 33 sailors, with a further 39 injured.

British outrage met with equally hostile denunciations from Tirana. Albania could not have laid the mines because it had no ships capable of such actions, it said.

Impartial observers noted that the incident came just as Britain and Albania were to establish diplomatic links.

The International Court in The Hague later found that Albania, whose shore batteries earlier that year had fired on HMS Orion and HMS Superb, was responsible for the damage even if it had not laid the mines. Tirana was to pay compensation of £843,947.

But Albania refused and, in retaliation, Britain blocked Tirana's request for the return of Albania's gold recovered from the Nazis at the end of the Second World War and administered by the Allied Tripartite Commission - Britain, France and America.

Since then, despite "informal contacts" and inconclusive talks in Paris in 1985, attempts at establishing diplomatic relations have foundered on the Corfu Channel incident.

It is a situation which every intelligent Albanian regrets. In recent weeks, however, there have been signs that Tirana is

keen to change this. After the ninth plenum of the communist party in January, Tirana issued a statement that it wished to re-establish links with countries "friendly towards Albania".

Shaban Murati, foreign editor and former editor-in-chief of Zeri i Popullit, the Albanian party newspaper, said: "Albania needs to open itself up and re-establish links with many countries. Links with London are an important step."

The loss of life on the British ships is no longer described as "fictitious", but as "unfortunate" and even "tragic". The possibility of a monument being put up here to the memory of the dead sailors has been discussed in Tirana.

Professor Raben Puto, the leading international lawyer in Albania, said: "We cannot exclude this possibility, though it is something we must go into once diplomatic relations are established. We abide by the decision of the International Court at The Hague, but Britain was wrong in international law to link the incident with our gold."

The professor is keen to point out that the present absence of diplomatic relations is "contradictory".

Professor Puto, like many Albanians, recalls with pride how many British travellers visited Albania in the 19th



Croat parties play nationalist card

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

WITH only days to polling, nationalist fervour has gripped the Yugoslav republic of Croatia, with candidates in the first democratic elections forsaking political issues and seeking to win support by proving their loyalty to the ethnic Croatian cause.

Croatia, with a population of about five million, goes to the polls on Sunday to elect 360 delegates. Some 40 opposition parties have sprung up in the past few months.

The coalition Croatian Democratic Union, under Dr Franjo Tudjman, enjoys massive support and stands for a confederate system or even Croatian independence.

The Croatian Communist Party, which has added to its

name the Party of Democratic Change, seems to stand little chance. Between the two are a dozen assorted groups, united under Mrs Savka Dabovic-Kucar, a leader in the Croatian reform movement who was purged in the 1970s but whose popularity is still high.

However, she is hardly a match for Dr Tudjman, who has used the electoral campaign to rally the Croats around the promise of equality and independence, playing on the current fear of Serbia and its communist leader, Mr Slobodan Milosevic, who is holding on for a centralized federal system, and still clings to unchallenged communism in his own republic. On Monday, the

stadium in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, was packed and the atmosphere charged with nationalist emotions. Tens of thousands chanted "Freedom to Croatia", and sang the Croatian national anthem and waved the Croatian flag as Dr Tudjman continued his electioneering. He said of the communist party: "The wolf can change his coat but never his nature."

Dr Tudjman is at pains to refute accusations that he wants Croatia to secede from Yugoslavia but he emphasizes that unless equal relations are established Croatia might follow the Slovene example or that of the Baltic republics. He dismissed claims he was a nationalist as "lies" invented

by "greater Serbian hegemonists" who could not bear any hint of Croatia. He said: "What Croatia wants is the same as the Serbs took for themselves by force and the Slovenes more recently won for themselves by democratic elections." In Slovenia, the opposition defeated the communists, winning 55 per cent of the vote and securing 47 out of 80 seats in the republic's parliament.

Dr Tudjman warned his supporters to "beware of provocation" as "someone wants to provoke blood and conflict", in order to have a reason to ban his party and arrest its members.

Leading article, page 13

US speeds removal of German listening posts

From Susan Elliott, Washington

FOR budding writers of spy thrillers these are depressing days. The collapse of the Berlin Wall signalled several months ago that Western espionage systems would face an inevitable shake-up by the end of the decade.

Now, the US intelligence community appears to be moving faster than expected towards reducing its eavesdropping services in Germany, the setting in fact and fiction for 40 years of some of the most dramatic spy swaps and defections.

According to a report in *The New York Times*, the US has started discussing the removal or sharing of control of \$1 billion (£600 million) of sophisticated eavesdropping posts in West Berlin and along the West German frontiers with East Germany and Czechoslovakia. Experts estimate that US intelligence officials could decide the future of the stations within one to two years, or more rapidly than predicted when the two Germanies increased their momentum towards reunification.

The faster-than-expected pace of change will be closely watched by America's allies since West Germany has been the centre of the largest Western spy operations along the Iron Curtain since the downfall of Hitler in 1945. After the war, international spy networks based in West Germany worked together to round up suspected Nazi war criminals and recruit rocket scientists. America's listening posts there are some of the most advanced in the world.

The discussion of the possible cuts is certain to please US officials and members of Congress anxious to cut America's military budget, because they view the Soviet threat as diminished. There is still debate among US officials, however, about whether the US is reacting too hastily to recent political upheavals in Eastern Europe. The majority of US operations against the former so-called East bloc are designed to spy on Soviet military operations or uncover preparations for an invasion from the region.

The reductions under discussion in American spy operations in West Germany will probably cool Washington's warm intelligence relations with Bonn when they take effect. The two countries have exchanged intelligence material for years. Other Western countries are certain to start questioning the importance of allowing the US to continue intelligence operations on their soil.

Under an agreement established by the four main Second World War victors, the US is allowed eavesdropping posts in Berlin. But the interests of the Americans and the Germans are likely to diverge as a united Germany evolves into a new European superpower, US officials told *The Times*.

Bonn has already told the US that it will not tolerate US intelligence operations aimed at East Germany or Soviet troops after German reunification, although other operations are expected to continue. In non-political areas, such as drug trafficking and terrorism, the US could even increase its operations. One German official told *The New York Times* that the US will use some of its listening posts in East Germany to check that both East and West are adhering to arms control accords.

The speed of the US intelligence cuts is likely to be determined by the results of national elections in West Germany in December. The Social Democrats would be more critical of American espionage against the Soviet Union or members of the Warsaw Pact than the conservative party of Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor.

Moves to establish army for Europe

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

A FIRST step towards a European army, based initially on the nine-nation Western European Union but later linked to the European Community, could be taken in Brussels on Monday.

Dr Willem Van Eekelen, secretary-general of the WEU and a former Dutch Defence Minister, is to ask a ministerial meeting to give him a mandate to explore the possibilities of "multinational units".

The idea will not be presented as an embryonic European army because that could arouse British and American fears that the WEU could become a competitor to Nato. At present, it is seen as a non-operational security organization acting as the European pillar of the Atlantic alliance.

Mr Van Eekelen made clear yesterday, however, that his aims were more ambitious than the limited proposals he will put forward on Monday. "Ultimately, it could become one European army, but I am flexible on that", he said. It would be important, he added, that the US should retain at least a part of its forces in Europe.

He envisages each European country's retaining a home guard while committing its main forces to a common European army. Their heavy weapons would be under its control, but not nuclear forces.

In view of British concerns that any new defence organization could involve an expensive additional bureaucracy, Mr Van Eekelen emphasized that he hoped that could be avoided. He did not explain how political control of such a body could be achieved without a large central organization.

He said he had taken his inspiration from Jean Monnet and other founders of the European Community who envisaged a European defence union. "No single country would be able to command an aggressive campaign," he said.

He hoped that the WEU would eventually develop into a European community defence or security structure while retaining its present functions. "I regard the WEU as a transitional organization on the way to European union," he added.

As a first step WEU members could set up multinational forces at brigade level, modelled on Nato's Northern Army Group. Only four countries would be involved in any one unit.

A start could be made with units from Germany, Britain, The Netherlands and Belgium, but eventually all WEU members would be involved.

Soviet weekly in call on gay rights

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

AN IMPASSIONED plea for an end to the criminal prosecution of homosexuals in the Soviet Union has been voiced by a leading magazine, which said the campaign against Aids is being severely hampered by gays' understandable reluctance to come forward for testing.

In one of the frankest and most sympathetic accounts of the plight of homosexuals in this country, *Ogonyok*, the influential liberal weekly, said their continued prosecution was a flagrant violation of human rights.

The magazine noted that, despite a promise to remove from the criminal code the article which stipulates up to five years' imprisonment for homosexuality, the law has not yet been changed. Although widely disregarded in Moscow and most big cities, the legislation is vigorously enforced in the provinces.

Ogonyok said that public prejudice against homosexuals, whom it described as "the rejected", was strong, although their numbers were greater than officials have ever admitted. The magazine estimated that up to 5 per cent of Soviet men are homosexual, but said gays accounted for 30 per cent of all the Aids cases so far registered in this country.

Ogonyok interviewed three men in hospital diagnosed as Aids carriers, and gave prominence to their complaints about the way they were treated. One said that anyone publicly identified as an Aids carrier was automatically dismissed from his job, and the police frequently then brought charges against him.

He said promises of anonymous testing and contact tracing were never kept. The police usually spied on those reporting to such clinics, and interrogated victims to give information on their partners. He said that, when referred to

a testing clinic in another town, homosexuals were invariably accompanied by police.

Soviet society, the magazine said, is still repressive to homosexuals: they have nowhere to meet, they are shunned at work and most are forced to get married to conceal their orientation. *Ogonyok* compared their situation with the relative freedom in the West, and said repression only encouraged further contacts, casual sex and male prostitution.

It said that there was a network of male as well as female prostitutes in most big cities; for foreigners, the rate was \$50 (£30).

The *Ogonyok* article has been published as the campaign against Aids here is being taken far more seriously, with the numbers of infected rising alarmingly. Newspapers have warned that conditions in the Soviet Union are a recipe for disaster: there are still not enough disposable syringes in hospitals, drug addiction is spreading, homosexuals are frightened of disclosure and public discussion of sex is still inhibited by old taboos.

Nevertheless, *glasnost* has brought some unusual frankness recently. A television documentary on ethics last week included an interview with a prisoner who spoke of homosexuality in prison camps.

An eight-page unofficial newspaper published by the Anti-Aids Campaign is freely available in underground stations and gives detailed information on sexual practices, myths and homosexuality.

The *Ogonyok* article is significant not only for its denunciation of a law that almost all Soviet doctors and sociologists regard as oppressive, but for portraying homosexuals as society's victims.

Memorial request for Stalin victims

From Craig Whitney, Moscow

ALL OVER the vast Siberian triangle of suffering, where millions of people died in Stalin's prison camps, a yearning to atone cries out for fulfilment.

Now Ernst Neizvestny, the sculptor who created Khrushchev's tomb in Moscow before emigrating to the West, has been asked by the authorities in cities at the three corners of the triangle to build vast monuments to the victims.

At present living in New York, he said he hoped to start memorials in Vorkuta, Sverdlovsk, and Magadan this year. He said: "In all Russian history, they have never built a monument to what they did wrong. So this is a big, historical duty."

Mr Neizvestny, born in Sverdlovsk, never served time in Stalin's camps. He was so badly wounded in Austria in combat with the Red Army in the Second World War he was left for dead.

In an interview with visitors from Soviet journalists and members of the Communist Party Politburo, he said he had been thinking about the memorials for years.

Memorial, a nationwide group of lawyers, scholars, artists, historians and others who suffered under Stalin - or whose parents or grandparents did.

"There are different projects for the three cities, but a single idea," he said - the faces weeping with tears that are, again, masks and burning with fire as a symbol both of destruction and eternal memory. Speaking of the plan to have red flames burning in all three monuments, Mr Neizvestny said: "It's the first time I've used esoteric, magical elements."

All three monuments will be composed of human masks, and will include the elements of fire and water, he said - the faces weeping with tears that are, again, masks and burning with fire as a symbol both of destruction and eternal memory. Speaking of the plan to have red flames burning in all three monuments, Mr Neizvestny said: "It's the first time I've used esoteric, magical elements."

At Vorkuta, in the far north, and at Magadan, in the far east, the memorials - 60ft high, 200ft long, 135ft wide - will be made of concrete. He told *Moscow News*: "I don't want portraits, only masks, masks of the souls." The monument in Sverdlovsk would be two huge masks



In five years we'll have a decent phone network.

From Anne McKelvey, East Berlin

IN THESE days of approaching German unity you can be waved across the border by smiling guards with barely a glance at your passport, or clamber unhindered through the multiplying cavities in the Berlin Wall.

But if you want to hold a conversation across the few yards from East to West Berlin, you stand a greater chance of making contact by using a megaphone rather than the East German telephone system.

Try to get through to Bonn and you might as well write a letter, so long is the queue for calls.

The hit-or-miss dialling system often ensues that, in trying to get London, the first three connections are with Budapest, Leningrad and Prague.

Herr Christian Schwarz-Schilling,

disastrous communications between the two Germanies will be the biggest problem bedevilling future economic union.

The main hurdle in the path of improvements is the continued existence of the Cocom (Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls) list which forbids the export of computer and telecommunications hardware to Eastern bloc countries.

Only a couple of hundred lines link the two states and a quarter of all public switching equipment dates from well before the war.

The constant crackles and crossed lines make data transmission virtually impossible.

Adding insult to injury, East German hotels, motivated by profit for the first time in 40 years, have quintupled the cost of calls to West and great any complaint about

line at all. The policy is driving customers into the arms of the West German portable-telephone manufacturers, who are expanding the range of their wares, assured of catching desperate custom in the East.

Little wonder that the former Politburo and state security service had their own network erected in the Communist Party headquarters to avoid having to dial seven times to issue an order.

They were thus also able to avoid the hideous standard-issue telephones which come in a choice of vibrant orange or purple.

Just over 10 per cent of all East Germans own a telephone, compared with nearly 50 per cent of their neighbours in the West.

Previously, the quickest way to acquire a telephone was to sign up as a freelance informant for the Stasi.

quarters of the East Berlin Post Office, known as the "Hall of the Hopeless", and plead with sympathetic but impatient officials about why they should be moved up the 13-year waiting list.

The most favoured new route is setting up a small business which, in the present surge of small-time capitalism, bestows the clout with the authorities once reserved for employees of the firm they called "Look, Listen and Grab".

Meanwhile, Herr Schwarz-Schilling predicts it will take up to DM30 billion (£10.9 billion) to bring the East's elderly phone system into line with the West's, and experts are gloomy about the prospects of swift improvement.

To add to the pessimism about passably telecommunications, the East German newspaper, *Neues Deutschland*, announced last week-

East Europe braces for lengthening dole queues

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

SURPRISINGLY, the queue at Warsaw's white-collar employment exchange in Czerniakowska Street is churning, displaying none of the seriousness of the meat queues as clerks, displaced managers, redundant planners and others wait for jobs.

Agnieszka, aged 30, a stock clerk, has skimmed the newspapers and surveyed the noticeboards. There are offers for engineers, for a maintenance manager at Bialoleka, a high-security prison, for a flower-shop supervisor, for a dozen accountants, but nothing for her.

Large-scale unemployment is still in its early days in Eastern Europe — 200,000 in Poland and edging towards that figure in Hungary. But the unemployed, as even government ministers are admitting, are in for a rude shock.

The World Bank says that unemployment will rise rapidly in Poland this year to 1.7 million. The Soviet Union's cuts in its Hungarian engineering imports put at risk at least 200,000 industrial jobs.

Redundant secret policemen are becoming taxi drivers, or setting up private detective agencies, but most of those cast out from the huge defence planning machine, from heavy industry and collapsing communist party newspapers like the *dole*.

The rules are strict. An unemployed Pole receives his first benefit, 70 per cent of his previous salary, after one month, but that drops to 50 per cent after three months and 40 per cent after six months. It can never be higher than the average national wage of about one million zlotys (£60).

School leavers receive a dole payment equivalent to the lowest national salary, about (£7.30). If somebody rejects two reasonable jobs or retraining offers, he loses the right to benefit.

The number of job offers is shrinking quickly. Last year 250,000 jobs were available. Now there are fewer than

20,000, most of them involving manual labour.

Over the Vistula River, in the bruised Praga suburb, the Warsaw exchange specializing in labourers was not exactly humming with contentment yesterday. Sometimes a building contractor putting up a private house cruised by the queue and offered a few daily labouring jobs.

For the most part only short-term work was available. Jurek, a lathe operator, had been waiting an hour to register as unemployed and he was angrier than most. "We put Solidarity in power — and now what? It's turning on the workers," he fumed.

Indeed, unemployment is the real demarcation line between Solidarity in government and Solidarity as a union.

The banks have been extending millions of pounds of credit to inefficient factories over the past three months to stave off bankruptcies and keep down the number of unemployed.

The Government commitment to unemployment and bankruptcy is strong, however. In recent discussions with the International Monetary Fund, government economists pointed to the rising unemployment rate as a sign that its sharp-shock free-market policies are beginning to work.

Solidarity trade unionists are depressed, and some appear to be plotting within a loose left-wing coalition for the Government's eventual downfall. "We will not accept unemployment," Mr Piotr Kowalski, of Warsaw Solidarity's intervention committee, said. "In our opinion, it is a social illness which must be remedied. However, for the time being it is also a reality and so we have to learn how to fight it."

The problem is that there is no unemployment culture in modern Eastern Europe. The communist social contract with its citizens plainly assumed a guaranteed job for life, so that Poland and other East European countries are stumbling in the dark.

British advisers from the Department of Employment, financed by the £50 million "know-how fund" for Poland, have been trying to help. There will soon be similar missions to Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

A bank is to be established in Poland to provide cheap credit for those wanting to launch small businesses in the service, trade or processing sectors. Regional labour offices will be set up by the end of June, and various groups, such as the International Labour Organization, have agreed to equip new labour exchanges.

The man at the sharp end is Mr Jacek Kuron, the Minister of Labour and a dissident for 30 years. He is the most left-wing member of the Government, and his job is specifically to prepare workers for the sacrifices of market reform.

The most explosive time he faces will be in the late summer, when tens of thousands of school leavers discover that they have no jobs to go to, and factories finally run out of credit.

Warsaw treaty reviewed

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

POLAND is set to renegotiate its friendship treaty with the Soviet Union after an important mission to Moscow by President Jaruzelski.

This is the first step towards reshaping the Warsaw Pact. The new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe are trying to convert the pact from a military alliance into a political grouping, with a reduced role for the Soviet Union and no role for the communist parties.

"We want Polish-Soviet links to be based, not on ideology, but on normal state-to-state relations," the Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Wladyslaw Kladzynski, said yesterday.

The terms of the new relationship were spelt out by President Jaruzelski and President Gorbachev in a joint declaration.

The Soviet Union concedes that Poland, and other countries, have "a free choice of their socio-political systems" and the declaration guarantees Poland's "sovereignty and territorial integrity".

The Soviet Union also offered its full support for Poland's western border with Germany.

Katyn stirs memories for exiled Polish count

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

FOUR months into his 99th year, the passage of nearly a century weighs heavily on the frail body of Count Edward Raczyński, but not on his remarkably agile mind.

The last surviving link between the Polish Government of 1939, the British Government of the last 51 years, and the present Solidarity-led Government in Warsaw is willing himself to remain on the planet for one more year.

He believes, and most observers agree, that a fully democratic government will be elected in Poland within a year. The Polish government-in-exile in London, which he helped to create in 1939, will then hand over the seals of office and the national standard, which were smuggled out of the country after the outbreak of war.

As patron and former president of the government-in-exile, he will be consulted on the timing of the handover. "I know I cannot expect many more years, but I hope to live to see that day," he said in an interview with *The Times*.

Count Raczyński, the last male in a line of Polish land-owning aristocracy, was his country's ambassador to Britain from 1934 to 1939. His estates and palaces were seized or destroyed, and he had to sell works of art he had brought to London to survive.

For the past 20 years, he has lived in a London flat where time seems to have stopped four decades ago. An ancient Blaupunkt radio still warms to Radio Free Europe, and sepia and black and white photographs of Polish gentry line the bookshelves.

On the walls of his office there are paintings of his magnificent estate at Rogalin, now a museum, and his palace in Warsaw, which was burned down with a priceless archive inside it during the war. Count Raczyński can no longer see the picture, nor the photographs of his wife, Cecile, who died in 1963, his eyesight having completely failed.

But his mind is not locked in the past. Ask him about the street of fine houses he used to own in Warsaw and he replies: "Forget it, that's old stuff."

All his thoughts are on a service which will take place on Saturday at the British Memorial to the Katyn massacre of 1940. The Memorial, at Gunnesbury in west London was built 14 years ago despite strong pressure from the British authorities who were reluctant to allow blame to be clearly attributed to their former wartime ally.

The British Katyn Association, which raised the money to build it, has decided to abolish the annual politically orientated memorial service

which was held there every September as a protest against the refusal of the Soviet authorities to admit responsibility for the massacre.

Sir Frederic Bennett, its chairman, said that after Moscow's admission of guilt it was felt to be no longer appropriate. The time had come for reconciliation.

The service will be the last of its kind, but there will be one final blow to Moscow's image. Until now, the wording on the memorial has only attributed blame by implication. On Saturday, a marble slab will be added with an inscription making it explicit, and soil taken from the massacre site by a Polish priest will be laid under it.

Count Raczyński is too frail to move far from his flat, though he has received Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, and Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, in the past four months. Instead, a message is to be read on his behalf at the service. He will express "some satisfaction" with the Soviet admission but will say it has not gone far enough.

He said his message would demand that Moscow should also confess to responsibility for the deaths of 10,000 Polish officers killed at Starobelsk and Ostashkov, apart from the 5,000 shot at Katyn.



Count Raczyński at his London home yesterday. Too frail to attend the Katyn service, he says the Soviet admission of responsibility has not gone far enough

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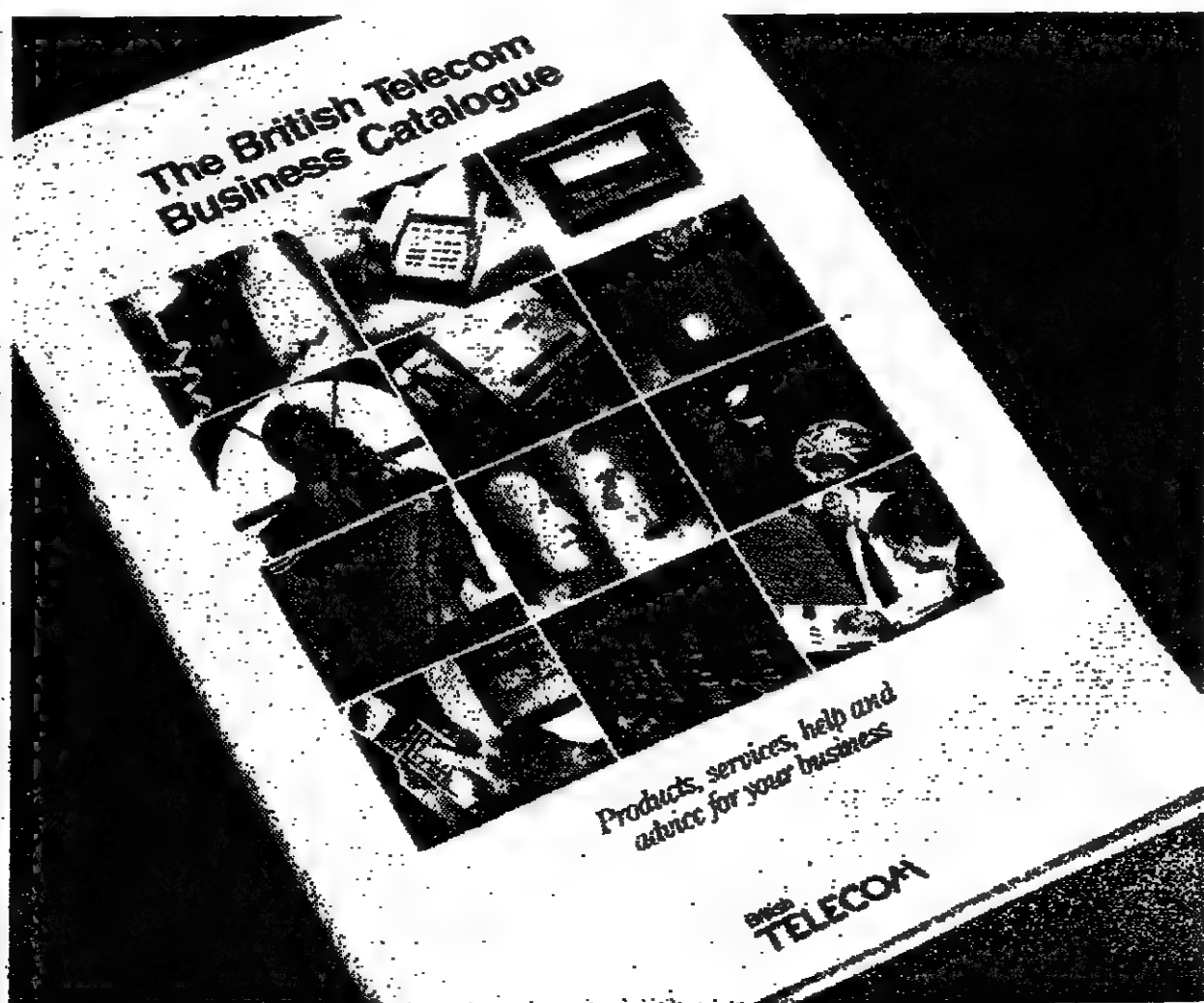
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TV makes children fat and violent

Chicago — Children in the United States spend more time watching television than doing anything else but sleeping, and are becoming fat and violent, according to the US Academy of Pediatrics.

"Sufficient data have accumulated to warrant the conclusion that protracted television viewing is one cause of violent or aggressive behaviour," the group said.

"The many implicit and explicit messages on television that promote alcohol consumption and promiscuous sexual behaviour are also a cause for concern," (Reuters)

Jets collide

Karlsruhe — One pilot was killed and another seriously injured when two Canadian F18 Hornet fighters collided over West Germany, showering fragments of burning wreckage. (Reuters)

Kabul purge

Islamabad — The Afghan regime has executed two ministers, formerly in charge of foreign and tribal affairs, after an attempted coup in March that failed to topple President Najibullah. (AFP)

Shias battle

West Beirut — Eleven people, including a nun and a priest, were killed and 42 others were wounded in fierce house-to-house fighting between rival Shia factions.

Death decision

Washington — The US Supreme Court has lifted the stay of execution by electrocution of Dahoi Prejean, a mentally-retarded murderer from Louisiana, who has spent a record 12 years on Death Row.

Twofreed

Harare — The Mozambique Renam movement has released Mr Dudley Searle, a Zimbabwe industrialist, and Professor David Stephenson, head of the Department of Hydrology at Witwatersrand University in South Africa, eight weeks after kidnapping them.

Big cheese

Nicosia — Washington has granted Cyprus exclusive rights to the US to the trademark 'Halloumi' (goat's milk) cheese. (Reuters)

US speed removal of German listening posts

hold

Closing the teacher gap

Peter Dolton

The supply and demand for teachers has been out of balance for many years. A long period of shortage up to the early 1970s was followed by a surplus. Today we have enough teachers in total, but too few in certain subjects (maths, science, modern languages, crafts, religious education), and in certain geographical areas (most markedly inner London and the South-east). There are also many trained teachers not working in teaching, but who would do so if the conditions were right.

The market for teachers is unlike most conventional markets, for the public sector dominates the demand, and the government is directly responsible for their supply. The government can set desirable pupil/staff ratios and maximum class sizes, and can alter the number of trainees. And although it does not have control of day-to-day spending on schools, the government does of course determine teachers' pay.

Two elements, however, are largely outside government control: changes in the birth rate and, more important, changes in the relative pay and conditions of private-sector occupations. The main problem of teacher supply is the poor relative pay.

Between 1960 and 1986, the average real earnings of teachers rose from £7,300 a year to nearly £11,000 at 1985 prices, although the process was erratic and marked by large, infrequent rises. However, the earnings of teachers in this period did not keep pace with average non-manual employees in the private sector. Teachers' starting salaries are still relatively good (as first salaries for graduates), but earning prospects in mid and late career are poor. The growth that can be expected in earnings is a vital factor in choice of employment.

This is one of the main reasons why fewer and fewer graduates are entering teaching. The proportion of male graduates entering the profession has fallen from 34 per cent in 1960 to 14 per cent in 1980, while among female graduates the percentage has fallen from 61 per cent to 35 per cent. Meanwhile, the proportion of graduates entering commerce has multiplied more than fourfold.

Little can be expected in the long term from the most commonly suggested remedies for alleviating the teacher shortage: using unqualified ancillary staff, delaying retirements, allowing pupil/teacher ratios to rise, or reducing the length of schooling (either by shortening school terms or lowering the school-leaving age). Even the Government's scheme of bursaries for trainee teachers in shortage subjects is unlikely to succeed: no bright student is going to be lured into studying for a few hundred pounds more a year when he faces the prospect of a lifetime of low wages.

If the Government is serious about revitalizing teacher recruitment, there is no alternative to an immediate across-the-board pay increase to restore pay levels to those of other non-manual earnings. This should be backed by a commitment to future index-linked rises to maintain the relative level of pay. The pay structure must also provide greater scope for development and career progress.

These measures could be supplemented by more extensive use of housing allowances and other fringe benefits to help recruitment in areas of high housing prices and living costs.

Subsidiary improvements of particular interest to women would be to allow more flexible use of part-time teachers with job-sharing arrangements and more flexible hours of work, and provision of more training and conversion courses for teachers who have been out of the job for some time or wish to return in a shortage subject.

Teachers recruited from other occupations should be given appropriate allowances. The old Burnham scale incorporated such increments, and this element of the old pay structure should have been retained.

Local authorities should make available to school heads a flexible contingency fund for pay increments, at the discretion of the headteacher, in subjects or geographical areas where there is a shortage.

I am not suggesting differentials between subjects or regions, but a flexible arrangement which allows some latitude in appointments in cases of severe shortage and local difficulty. It must be possible to organize a system which is acceptable to the unions and the teachers.

One final point: it is time the Government provided statistics on the number of trained teachers in the country, the number of teachers trained each year, the level of wastage from teacher training courses, the number of graduates taking up first appointments in teaching, the wastage rate from the profession, and the age composition of the teaching force.

Much of this data is not given in official sources, and the information that is available is published after a crippling two-year lag. To maintain an accurate picture of teacher supply, these figures should be collected annually and published promptly.

Any government must count the cost of innovations. In this case the costs may be considerable. However, the Government should also estimate the benefits of these suggestions: the revitalization of our state education system and the adequate training of our future labour force.

The author is an economist at Bristol University currently researching teacher supply.

CRAIG BROWN

The Suffolk village has become the natural home of the female crime-writer. Patricia Highsmith used to live in Suffolk, and so did Dorothy L. Sayers. Both P.D. James and Ruth Rendell still live there. The unobtrusive but massive Suffolk village lacks the necessary proportion of deranged mass-murderers to satisfy the demands of the modern crime-writer, but a glimpse at *The Country Diary of a Crime-Writing Lady* shows that this is not quite so.

Monday: The sun glimmers on the village pond. The duck waddles along, looking almost human. On the village green, the sea-saw rocks back and forth. A solitary kite swoops and hovers above the village church, where the rector is preparing for the Harvest Festival. The distant purring of a lawnmower fills the air, interrupted by a faint coo-coo-coo from the village dove-cote. In the Olde Tea Shoppe, Mrs Tinkle warns the pot, ready for another day. Down at the barn, PC Humphreys leans on his rusty old bike, shaking his head. "She never 'ad a chance," he says, looking at the putrefied corpse, its face hideously disfigured, as has just been discovered on the sea-saw, "she never 'ad a chance."

Tuesday: Today's putrefied corpse, its face hideously disfigured, has just been discovered squeezed inside Mrs Tinkle's teapot. Mrs Tinkle now recalls that the pot has been pouring badly these past six weeks. This is the seventh victim to be discovered inside a week. People say there's a killer on the loose.

Wednesday: I pop into the post office. The village post-mistress, a transvestite kleptomaniac with clear psychopathic tendencies, trills a merry greeting. I spot the Rector, browsing through the greetings cards, absent-mindedly employing his bicycle clips to strangle an errant goldfish. "For the first five years of my life, I was brought up by my half-crazed mother to believe that I was the goldfish," he sighs. "She'd keep me afloat in the bath all day dressed in orange, feeding me

tibits and forcing me to open and shut my mouth. There's not a goldfish alive towards whom I feel neutral." I smile reassuringly. On my way out, the village blacksmith, an ex-Morris dancer who cracked under the pressure, comes in to report an unpleasant encounter. "I stopped to pick up what I thought was a hitch-hiker. I gave her a helping hand into my vehicle, and was somewhat bewildered when she failed to express her gratitude. Conversation, too, proved a mite one-sided. Taking a closer look, I realized that I had given a lift not to a hitch-hiker but to a putrefied corpse, hideously disfigured. It's been one of those days." The police now believe that there is a killer at large, and he may be ruthless.

Thursday: To tea with Mrs Tinkle. Walking to the back room, I lose my way and stumble into a dark cellar. There I catch sight of a coven of witches drawn from all walks of life, their voices raised in a manic chant: "Neighbours good needs everybody." It is the theme tune from *Neighbours*, fiendishly reversed. On my way home, I encounter PC Humphreys, who offers me a dead mouse from a brown paper bag. "Delicious," he says, but I refuse, for he has no vinaigrette. There is something odd about him, but I can't for the life of me think what it is. The postman brings more bills and a putrefied corpse, hideously disfigured, which I can't remember ever having ordered.

Friday: Police from five counties arrived today, encircled the village pond and arrested the duck on eight counts of murder. The real duck was killed long ago, and the false duck is in fact a psychopathic dwarf, forced by an overbearing father to wear a bill, hold his hands behind his back and waddle. He has been determined to wreak his revenge on society ever since. The sun glimmers on the village pond was actually a laser beam, erected by Nazi sympathizers, and the solitary kite has been sending messages to a disgruntled serial-killer in a nearby village. And as for the noises in the dove-cote — they came from a gang of aggrieved anarchists, hell-bent on a coo.

Marcus Binney warns against the damage wrought by enthusiastic restorers with money to burn

Kindness that ruins our cathedrals

Our great cathedrals seem to lurch from one financial crisis to another. Save the Mappa Mundi, save the Spar at Salisbury, the view of Ely across the Fens; only a few years ago the Prince of Wales was leading an appeal to save Canterbury Cathedral itself.

Amid such dramas there is an instant attraction in the offer by Mr Peter Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, to mount a national drive to put our cathedrals in perfect order in time for the millennium.

Yet were such a programme launched, and £50 million a year raised and spent every year for the next 10 years, it would provoke a controversy as great as any in Victorian times, when unsympathetic cathedral "restoration" prompted William Morris to form the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, to save cathedrals not from the ravages of time but from the zeal of the restorers.

The fury that erupted in the correspondence columns of *The Times* 20 years ago over the

treatment of statues on the west front of Wells Cathedral was a vivid illustration of the passions that any work on cathedrals can inflame. But out of that controversy arose a new system, of careful research and wide-ranging consultation before any work begins. The specially formed Wells Committee established a dialogue between archaeologists, art historians and museum conservators, and brought to Wells the world's leading specialists on air pollution and stone decay. At the end of all this, the Dean and Chapter, and their architect, could fairly claim that they had had the benefit of the best experience and most up-to-date scientific analysis, while satisfying the "anti-scrape" lobby that they were doing no more than was absolutely necessary.

Cathedrals, like other major historic buildings, are increasingly subject to what I call the penicillin fund syndrome. Sir Christopher Wren's sage advice, "Stave off decay by daily care", is quickly forgotten. After all, restoration is much more glamorous than

maintenance. Usually, a thorough programme is drawn up to ensure that the building is in first-class order for the next century. That sounds commendable and may be inevitable when an insurance company is investing in a historic property on a prime site in the high street, but it tends to mean that original timbers are stripped out, the roof is entirely reconstructed, cornices and doors are renewed and glass is replaced wholesale. Reinforced concrete and steel girders are introduced, although experience shows they may become a conservation problem before anything else. In the process, a protected property becomes a replica.

Yet our cathedrals are self-evidently works of art, and it is vital that authentic fabric and finishes are carefully respected.

With cathedrals, the issue is compounded by the sheer cost of scaffolding to great heights. Once the scaffolding is up, there is inevitably pressure to replace stonework and carving which may be good for 30 or 40 years more,

The problem has been made much more difficult by accelerating atmospheric pollution, and the recognition that many of the statues on English cathedrals deserve to be treated as museum pieces, although until recently they were dismissed by art historians as second-rate compared to those on the Continent.

A measure recently approved by the General Synod should ensure that all cathedrals take advantage of international experience. The measure, now awaiting approval by Parliament, will establish a fabric committee for each cathedral, which must be consulted and ultimately approve all major work affecting the structure and works of art within it. Where there is disagreement, the matter can go to the main Cathedrals Fabric Commission in London, with provision for a hearing similar to a public inquiry.

Nearly half of our cathedrals have already set up fabric committees, finding that the best and busiest experts are willing to give their time on a voluntary basis.

Quite a number of cathedrals now have their own mason's yard. What is clear is that each also needs a conservation laboratory and photographic archive (or access to one). On the Continent this is often provided through the regional historic monuments office. While opening a dialogue with English Heritage, the Deans and Chapters have chosen their own independent but parallel system. The crucial thing in the next 10 years is that it should prove as much a brake as an accelerator.

So much masonry and carving is being discarded and replaced that one enterprising peer has set himself the ambition of having a piece of every English cathedral in his garden. As yet he still has to find a rose window. While no one should want to thwart such a splendid venture, the new cathedrals' fabric committees should contemplate whether the creation of such a market in second-hand stone is necessary or desirable.

The author is president of SAVE Britain's Heritage.

Germans find a substitute for abandoned patriotism

Ronald Butt reports on the reasons underlying Kohl's concern for closer European integration

As German reunification and the new freedom of the former Soviet satellites reasons for hurrying towards a more politically integrated European Community, as virtually every EC government except the British believes? Or do the seismic upheavals in European politics suggest, as Mrs Thatcher insists, that the Community should concentrate instead on seeking a wider and lower association which would embrace at least some East European states?

The outlook in Eastern Europe is too obscure for any such early link with it to be practical. More fundamentally, the great disparity of wealth between the rich Western and poor Eastern states would make formal association very difficult.

In contrast, every member of the EC apart from Britain believes that German reunification reinforces the need for some kind of political integration within the Community itself. That was the conviction of everyone I talked to during a visit to Bonn: politicians, civil servants, economists and businessmen. It is also overwhelmingly the belief of the German people.

In part, of course, this is because a political structure for the Community is seen as a means of correcting a situation in which too many decisions are taken by Brussels bureaucrats instead of elected representatives. Influenced by the success of their own federal experience, Germans are too inclined to dismiss lightly the problems that a federalized community would pose for states with a long history of unitary nationhood. Chancellor Kohl, for instance, sees no point in trying to give national parliaments more power to control the European Commission. He thinks this would simply complicate and slow down the business of decision-making. The Germans regard the practice of the Danes, whose ministers must have the assent of their national parliament before agreeing to anything in the Council of Ministers, as a lesson in what to avoid.

But the deeper reason for the Germans' advocacy of a politically

integrated community is their country's position in Europe and its relation to its allies. Chancellor Kohl wants to make it quite clear in the EC that reunification will not (as the French in particular fear) distract the Germans from their European allies.

Herr Kohl believes that political integration in the Community is also the best way for Germany to allay the fears of the nations to the east (especially Poland) that it might take a neutralist path which could lead to trouble. The fear is not, of course, of a return of Nazi tyranny but that Germany might once more throw its weight around, on account of its strength and its geographical position in Europe, as it did after 1870, but this time economically.

The Germans' general will for European integration, however, does not mean that they have a clear scheme for it. Their present thinking does not extend beyond giving more power to the European Parliament and more clearly defined authority to the president of the Community. "We only want to make an issue of political union and talk about it. We don't have a plan and we don't want one," said one official.

Even if it were so inclined, the West German government would not have much time to devote to the detail of political union within the Community, for the political problems arising from reunification will leave little energy for anything else for two years at least. There is bound to be tension in East Germany as the initial consequences of the shift from socialism are felt. As unproductive factories are shut down and workers are laid off, East Germans will experience unemployment, industry will be burdened by inherited debt, and resources will have to be found to counter the ecological damage caused by primitive industrial methods. The break-up of large agricultural collectives and the removal of subsidies will not be easy.

On the other hand there will be opportunities for small businesses and tourism, and an early boom in the building of roads, railways,



industrial premises, hotels and restaurants. But first, as a precondition of reunification, agreement must be reached between the two German governments on economic and monetary matters, social security, pay and pensions, and the legislation for a free-market economy to allow for privatization. All this will have to take effect on the same day.

On a fixed day, the Deutschmark will become the only legal currency, with prices, wages and rents all being adjusted together. Chancellor Kohl hopes that agreement on all this can be reached in principle by May and formalized in the summer. This exercise will result in an injection of money into the East, and this carries an inflationary risk. But there will also be an increase in the supply of

consumer goods to mop up surplus money, which the West German government believes will keep inflation under control.

It will not be easy for the man in the East German street to adjust. What preoccupies him is how soon he can exchange his Trabi for a Volkswagen. Almost certainly, the East Germans will expect more of the West Germans than is quickly possible. During the transition, ex-communists in the East will be ready to declare that the difficulties are evidence of capitalist exploitation and of lack of care for the workers. On present evidence, Chancellor Kohl will easily win the West German elections this year; less predictable are the results of the first pan-German elections which are due at the end of 1991 or early in 1992, if

as he plans, reunification is achieved a year from now.

Central to the whole exercise is acceptance by East Germany, as from this summer, of the Bundesbank in place of its own Staatsbank. The Bundesbank has to be accepted as independent of political authority, suffering no interference from politicians in fulfilling its priority of keeping inflation at bay.

The Bundesbank itself has serious misgivings about at least one aspect of European monetary union — namely, the establishment of a central European bank. One advantage of a central European bank in the eyes of other members of the EC is that it would prevent the Community from being effectively controlled by the Bundesbank and the Deutschmark. But the Bundesbank is far from eager to hand over its financial autonomy within Germany to a central bank which might be pulled and pushed between rival national governments in the Council of Ministers. The Bundesbank is well aware that not all member states will share Germany's view of the primacy of the anti-inflationary commitment.

However, if a central political authority were established as the Community, it would presumably diminish the danger of such economic tension. The West German government believes that some kind of political union within the Community is necessary to ensure that economic and monetary policy fit together when European monetary union is in place, as it has no doubt it will be.

So the issues of German reunification and European union march together. Once the first phase of reunification is over, Germany will turn in more detail to the political integration of the Community. It is arguable that its own unity could revive the national patriotism that Germany has for so long studiously defied itself. But at present, European patriotism is a widely felt and virtuous substitute for the patriotism of this narrower sort.

Whatever the strength of Britain's own reasons for resisting European political union, we should be quite wrong if we failed to recognize that Germany's brand of European federalism essentially represents its will for peace and for a firm and abiding place in the Western system of nations.

Reith at last laid to rest

Lord Reith, the BBC's omnipotent founding father, was often accused by his minions of seeking to emulate the status of the Almighty. Certainly the organization is not taking any chances. For the 20 years since Reith's death, the BBC has continued to send royalty payments to him at his last known address every time his recorded voice was broadcast. The last cheque was posted to Reith at his former address in the Lollards Tower at Lambeth Palace, for his "appearance" in a programme celebrating the centenary of his own birth.

Sir William van Straubenzee, the former Conservative MP, who now occupies the Lollards Tower, returned the cheque with a note: "Lord Reith died in 1971 and while, of course, I realize that his influence remains powerful within the BBC, I think he is not likely to be able to appreciate the payment from wherever he now is." The BBC duly assured Sir William that its records had been updated, but two months later a further cheque arrived. The BBC now promises that no further payments will be made — finally accepting, it seems, that Reith no longer rules. Hence, perhaps, Duke Hussey's plan to slash staff by a third.

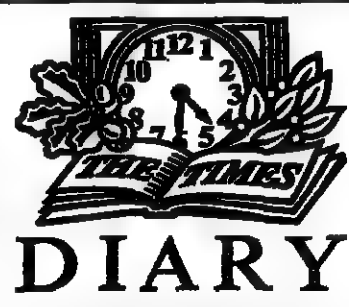
Spot the slip

Among the heartening messages following the first appearance of this diary yesterday was an inquiry as to its *raison d'être*. Perhaps we can respond by setting out what we

hope not to be with a quotation from *The House the Berrys Built*, Duff Hart-Davis's inside story of *The Daily Telegraph*, which is published tomorrow. That paper's former editor, William Deedes, records what its readers expected of its diary: "Supreme snobbery and the impression of learning without its difficulties, which meant that the latter had to be shallow and that the former had to be constant." The book also contains a timeless piece of advice from Hugo Wortham, who edited the *Telegraph's* diary for 25 years. Wortham declared that a classic diary story had three elements, "one fact, one generalization and, preferably, one very slight inaccuracy". That sound advice continues to serve diarists to this day.

Give and take

Michael Heseltine's offer to pay the poll tax on behalf of a dozen personal staff and workers on his Oxfordshire estate may not be quite so generous as it seems. The payments will run into several thousand pounds, but the inland Revenue says that Heseltine should be able to regard the money as a cost incurred in business and so enjoy a reduction in tax liability. Conversely, that might mean that his employees find their tax burden increased as they become liable for income tax on the poll tax sum paid on their behalf. Heseltine said yesterday that in such an event, he would cover his employees' additional tax liability, but conceded that he would also benefit from a reduced tax liability himself. Although the Department of the Environment refused to comment, the affair



seems to have exposed a loophole. Parliament cannot have intended that the community charge would reduce central government income from business in this way. As for the famous rise in local accountability from the charge, presumably Heseltine's workers will not be waxing angry over extravagance by their local council. No prize for guessing whom they will thank instead.

No segregation

Among the black elite who met Nelson Mandela on his flying visit to London — Jesse Jackson, Bernie Grant and Keith Vaz — was a surprising guest: Ivor Stanbrook, a backbench Tory with a reputation as a fully paid-up member of the party's hang-'em-and-flog-'em tendency. Stanbrook, MP for solidly white, middle-class Orpington, became the only member of his party to shake the great man by the hand at the supper given by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Sir Shridath Ramphal. Despite his otherwise right-wing reputation, Stanbrook has been consistently and outspokenly critical of the Pretoria government,

and that is what earned him the invitation. "I'm depressed by the inability of Western governments to compel the South African government to dismantle apartheid," he says. Stanbrook was impressed by Mandela, who, he thinks, "has a degree of saintliness like Cardinal Hummer". Asked by Stanbrook if and when he would be meeting Mrs Thatcher, the ANC vice-president assured him that he is anxious to do so on his next visit.

Eye to the future?

Neil Kinnock's improving image in the United States, underlined by George Bush's comments in *The Times* yesterday, was first evident when a group of US congressmen had coffee recently with the Labour leader at a private meeting at the House of Commons. One senior Labour MP reports: "The congressmen were fighting with each other to be photographed with Kinnock. A few years ago you would have had a job to get them even to meet him." But observers say that the transformation of Kinnock's transatlantic image really began in 1988, during the American presidential election, when one of the Democratic contenders, Joseph Biden, used large tracts of Kinnock's speeches during his ill-fated campaign. Although the plagiarism proved Biden's undoing, many say it was the making of Kinnock in American eyes. Nor was this week's interview the first time that Bush has sent warm signals to the Labour leader. On his last visit to Britain, the American president paid fulsome tribute to Kinnock and his wife, who were fellow

guests at an official Downing Street dinner. The hostess according to one of the guests sat in stony silence, looking far from amused.

If the wig fits

Rumpole is back. Leo McKern, who threatened to stop playing the fictional barrister, has resolved his differences with Thames Television and a new series is to be shot in the autumn. Furthermore, John Mortimer is hard at work on a new collection of stories. They will include, he says, one about a judge's strike in which wigs are exchanged for cloth caps (from Harrods, naturally) and M'lud refers to the criminal in the dock as "brother". Last week Mortimer published an anthology of *Great Law and Order Stories*, with a startlingly accurate introduction which predicted that the prison system was about to explode. Perhaps his strike story is not so fanciful: does he know something we have missed about the continuing judicial fury over the Lord Chancellor's reforms to the legal profession?

Emerald exile

According to Aer Lingus's current glossy advertising, "It took James Joyce a lifetime to discover Dublin." This might come as a surprise to the author of *Dubliners*, who abandoned the city at the age of 10 for the bright lights of Trieste and Paris. Although all his great works were based in Dublin, he pointedly avoided the place of his birth for nearly four decades before his death in 1941.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

LABOUR TRAVELS HOPEFULLY

President Bush's declaration in *The Times* yesterday of his confidence in his country's continuing good relations with the United Kingdom if there were to be a Labour government is significant, but not in the most obvious sense. The domestic politics of an ally are not the business of the United States, except to the extent that they affect its external relations.

Though Labour's economic policy, and its recent, much-vaunted enthusiasm for free markets, may have international implications, it is its foreign and defence policy which primarily concerns the United States. Labour's attempt to remodel its domestic policies are relevant only in so far as they have helped it to appear to British electors as a more credible candidate for government.

Much cloud still hangs over the detail of Labour's attitude to defence. President Gorbachev's revolution and the competitive race towards some nuclear and conventional disarmament have helped Labour off the unilateralist hook which did so much damage to its public standing at the 1987 election. But its left-wing, on parade again this week at the National Union of Teachers, is alive and kicking and will resist any shift away from total, unilateral nuclear disarmament — a shift on which Mr Kinnock himself is still far from clear.

On coming to power, Labour would adopt a policy of "no first use", but instead of promptly abandoning the British deterrent it would put Polaris and such Trident as had been completed into the general nuclear disarmament negotiations. The aim, as Mr Kinnock has put it, would be to get something for something instead of giving something for nothing. Much ambiguity still surrounds the question of what sort of negotiation it is that can presume its own outcome — the abandonment of the weapon at issue.

That said, the future of Britain's individual nuclear capability is not crucial to the United States. What matters is Britain's firmness under Labour within Nato and the European Community, and on both Washington is now

indicating some reassurance. Washington has perhaps learnt from its experience with Mr Harold (now Lord) Wilson, that for all the philosophical debating within the Labour Party, a promise to set about "negotiating" nuclear weapons meant no more than just that. Though Polaris was formally assigned to Nato, freeing Labour's conscience of the burden of having Britain as an independent nuclear power, the British Government still had the last word over its use.

Such manoeuvring for British home consumption mattered little to Washington, which cared only about Britain's firm commitment to a nuclear alliance, and of that Lord Wilson left the Americans in no doubt. Like most Labour leaders, he became an almost obsessive Americanophile. Mr Kinnock's dismay at his brush-off by President Reagan and his eagerness for American endorsement at present suggest that he will prove as soft a touch in this respect as his predecessors.

Even if this were not so, hard politics would call President Bush to be friendly with whomever was British Prime Minister. Though the President gave a warning against jumping to conclusions about Mrs Thatcher's present standing in the opinion polls, the current political scene in Britain must lead his Administration to try to understand Labour. It is in that spirit that Labour's shadow Chancellor, Mr John Smith, will be received in Washington this week, and Mr Kinnock possibly after him. Washington is nothing if not the home of *realpolitik*.

In this spirit of realism, Americans (despite President Bush's current preoccupation with Germany) will want to know more about Labour's true state of mind on Nato, the British contribution to it and its attitude to the nuclear umbrella. That, and the reality of its policy for the British deterrent, is something on which the voters here also deserve enlightenment. They will not find much by combing Labour's policy documents and statements. It will be a function of the political debate in Britain in the coming months to compel Mr Kinnock and his party to say more.

LAISSEZ-FAIRE PATRIOTISM

The impending defeat of the Communist Party in Croatia next Sunday, which follows its sister party's Easter rout in Slovenia, has implications for the whole political economy of Eastern Europe. These elections are hailed as nationalist triumphs, and so they are; but they have another dimension too. Proponents of a free market philosophy will have achieved the peaceful conquest of two provinces — the most advanced in the Balkans — which are preparing to pursue an independent destiny outside the ramshackle, and Serb-dominated, Yugoslav federation. The Slovenes and Croats are ready to flee this miniature reincarnation of the Habsburg Empire in order to sink or swim in the more congenial company of Italian or Austrian capitalists.

That national sentiment has already played an important part in Poland, East Germany and Hungary, as well as in the Baltic states, is doubted by no one. Yet central European nationalism — sinister as it seems to liberal Westerners — is an expression of the yearnings of downtrodden people to run their lives in their own way. Hence it is only apparently a paradox that irredentist Romanians, Magyars or Germans now vote for parties which appear to draw their economic inspiration from the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Georgian Edinburgh.

The power of capitalism to tame nationalism is, in the long run, enormous and incomparable. But nations which have suppressed their individualities under socialism for several decades will need time to learn that the new "citizens' state" is no more efficacious a means of their salvation than the old communist one. In these capsize command economies, leaking fast through newly unbattered hatches, time is the scarcest commodity of all.

The handful of indigenous free market economists who are now running some of these countries are uncovering problems undreamt

of in the rarefied seminar rooms of the LSE or Harvard. These victims of socialism have much to teach their more fortunate contemporaries in the West — and social democrats in the West are at last taking heed.

In the latest issue of the journal *Communist Economies*, for instance, two former dissident economists from Czechoslovakia and Poland offer first-class studies of the well-deserving but disastrous reforms of the past decade. Their common problem is made only slightly easier by the fact that, since the articles were written, Vaclav Klaus and Leszek Balcerowicz have become their respective countries' finance ministers.

They inherit a legacy not merely of grim totalitarianism but of high expectations, quick wits and comprehensive disillusionment. As Mr Klaus puts it, "shock therapy would be an easier and definitely a more reliable solution than prolonged muddling through." In other words, there is no middle way. In such circumstances, *laissez-faire* economists need a heavy dose of pragmatism to get their message across. They need to beat the patriotic drum if they are to retain popularity.

The "capitalist" parties which are making the running in prosperous Slovenia and Croatia — Mr Jozef Pucnik's Demos and General Franjo Tudjman's Croatian Democratic Union — are also responding to the longstanding threat of Slobodan Milosevic's Serb nationalism. The latter is rooted in the Titoist partisan past and appeals most to the backward regions.

Slovenia and Croatia may yet become a Balkan Benelux on the fringes of an enlarged European Community, while Mr Milosevic maintains the hegemony of the Serbs over an impoverished Macedonian, Montenegrin and Albanian rump. That would be a sad end to Yugoslavia. But its capitalist crusaders must be canny politicians, or they will merely reopen imperfectly healed war wounds.

CONSPICUOUS LEISURE

The week after Easter, like the week after Christmas, shows to the world that of all candidates for the title of "English disease", workaholic is not a serious contender. The return to work after the festive break is tentative and gradual, like a national convalescence. It would be wrong, however, to deduce from yesterday's quiet roads and silent offices that the English find working a pain. It is nearer the truth to say they find not working a pleasure.

Not working? A knock on any suburban door this week is likely to be answered by a man with brush in hand and paint in hair. He will have the slightly abstracted air of someone intent on such lofty aims as producing a perfectly painted runless door. More ambitious souls do their own plumbing and plastering; and all before the garden centre closes, for this is April, when a young man's fancy turns not only to the obvious but also to compost. Before he can present his love with a rose newly sprung in June, its bed must be mulched, powder forked into its roots, fungicide sprayed on its leaf buds, the arrival of greenfly watched, wind-rock prevented.

What Briton dares call this not working? That is an accountant's way of talking. He may expatiate on the gross annual turnover of the retail DIY sector or the growth rate of the bedding plant industry. But there is more to wealth creation than is dreamt of in such philosophy, namely what happens to the said plants and paint-pots once they are bought. Nobody really believes that work is only work when the worker is paid by somebody else to do it. Our subsistence farming ancestors with their three acres and a cow would have found the distinction meaningless.

Such work is done for the best reason of all,

which is personal satisfaction, and that is the end purpose of remuneration for "proper" work as well. Britons derive huge enjoyment from the non-pecuniary reward of leisure activity. But in order to hide this fact from economists and foreigners, we allow them to refer to it as amateur, and pretend that such leisure/work is not a serious contribution to the nation's wealth.

That which has great if unquantifiable value to individual citizens is not to be dismissed as mere leisure. There is a mischievous pleasure in knowing that activities which add so much to the quality of life can remain safely outside the reach of bosses and taxmen, because they are too dense to recognize its economic significance. They only know what they can measure, and they cannot measure leisure or pleasure.

Those relative scales of economic success which regularly put the British down among the Italians just because the statistics say so should accordingly be taken with a pinch of Growmore. Statistics not only ignore the black economy, they also ignore this other economy, the peculiarly British green economy, which is one of the glories of the nation.

Britons have chosen to turn as much as they can of their pleasant land into one enormous garden. Many spend much of what is euphemistically termed their "spare" time breaking their backs and bruising their knees to keep it beautiful. They treat their houses in the same way. Along with family life, and by no means unconnected with it, these are among the primary springs of personal contentment. Not rushing back to what officialdom calls "work" is not a sign of national slackness. It is the mark of a nation which does not count all its wealth in cash.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inflation on an upward trend

From Professor Alan Day
Sir, We have been told again and again over the last three years, both by the Government and by most of the economic forecasters, that Britain is about to face a temporary upward "blip" in the inflation rate but that in a few months' time, or at worst next year, inflation will fall back again. Now, once again, we are being told the same thing.

Perhaps things will be different next time, but an explanation of the repeated failures of these promises can easily be found in the standard professional economic literature that arose from the great debate between Keynesians and monetarists — an explanation which deserves more attention than it has received in this country, although most other market-oriented industrial countries are acting as though they have learned the lesson.

The critical relationship is that between the level of unemployment and the acceleration (or deceleration) of inflation. If unemployment is below some "core" or "natural" level, which unhappily may be around 10 per cent of the labour force in this country, then there is a persistent tendency for inflation to get faster and faster.

The mechanism which causes this to happen is the attempt by sellers of labour or of goods to adjust their selling price to their experience of faster inflation than

they had expected when they last changed their selling price. This adjustment leads to a further acceleration of inflation and further disappointment of expectations, as the sum total of individuals in the economy tries to achieve higher real incomes and expenditure than the economy can produce.

The remedy, painfully learned world-wide in the 70s and early 80s and irresponsibly forgotten by the British Government in the late 80s, is a period in which unemployment has to be higher than the core or natural rate, so that individual expectations about the real incomes that can be achieved are forced downwards. Unless we are very lucky indeed, we shall continue to see underlying inflation on an upward trend, until the lesson is learned and applied.

Mr Michael Howard, the Secretary of State for Employment, is regrettably stating precisely the reverse of the truth in claiming that the latest reduction in unemployment is testimony to the continuing basic strength of the economy (report, April 13). It is an indicator of the Government's continuing failure to get inflation back under control.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN DAY,
Chart Place,
Chart Sutton,
Malden, Kent.
April 13.

Prison staff dilemmas

From Dr J. Aldridge-Goult
Sir, The present disruptions in our prisons, and the terrifying levels of violence which have been manifested, are sad but quite predictable.

Over the years the most senior ranks of the prison service have been seduced into believing that they are senior Civil Servants, who see their careers in terms of the number of hours they spend closeted with the minister protecting him from embarrassment, rather than in practising their trade of running prisons. It would seem that they have taken the Gilbertian advice of "polishing handles so carefully, and never going to sea, that now they are the rulers of the Queen's Navy".

The introduction of "Fresh Start" some three years ago, and the radical restructuring that followed, had the effect of forcing a significant proportion of middle managers into either accepting early retirement, or going along with the new structures. Many accepted early retirement, but those who chose to stay found themselves appointed to newly created one-jobs.

Poll tax disquiet

From Miss R. S. Atack
Sir, Any tax has to come out of production. Edmund Burke seems to have appreciated that the incidence of any form of taxation — i.e., the point at which it is collected from production — has different and important effects. What is more, the science is so exact that a little more or less might be crucial to the functioning of the whole economy.

The poll tax, however, is a levy on existence and in principle is not levied on production. It is a "head" tax and may be imposed upon anybody, whether they have produced anything or not.

Given that nothing can be paid out of nothing, this seems a questionable "principle". In fact, it is no principle at all. It is an unworkable idea. At least the general rates were paid by people who owned their own houses and had probably produced something at some time.

The rationale which we are now supposed to find just and attractive is that we should pay for the services we use — an idea which might appeal to our sense of

justice. It leaves out of sight, however, the essential fact that a lot of these "heads" are unable to pay, even if they find the principle attractive and would like to do so. Yours sincerely,
ROSEMARY ATTACK,
Flat 1, Farmborough Close,
Harrow, Middlesex.

From Mr P. A. Philpot
Sir, As expected I have received my community charge bill (1990-91). In the envelope there were the following:

1. An advertisement from our local theatre for the Mr Men, Postman Pat, Yogi Bear, etc.
2. A leaflet showing where my £430 was going.
3. A bill for £430.
4. A direct debit form.
5. A wall chart containing a year planner (starting from April 1990, ending in 1991) and some local advertisements for, amongst others, a solicitor, a private hospital, a hairdresser, a veterinary surgery, a jewellers and an undertaker.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL A. PHILPOT,
23 Poynes Road,
Horley, Surrey,
April 11.

Legal loophole

From Mr G. V. Bull
Sir, Some time ago the Lord Chancellor prescribed new forms for use in the county courts as from April 2. As it has always been the practice of the county courts to provide forms free to the practitioner my firm wrote to our local county court for (as we are a small practice) 20 of each of the new forms.

An official told me they had only been provided with 50 (presumably each) of the forms themselves.

Could I use the old forms? The answer was "No". I was given a

name and number and telephoned with a request for 20 of each of the forms. I was told they could only send me 100.

We may have cause to start an action at any time, so I decided that, despite the wastage for the country, I had no choice but to ask for the sets of 100 forms.

What has gone wrong? This is a small instance, but it doesn't give one confidence that the legal system is being made cheaper.

Yours faithfully,
G. V. BULL,
Wright and Bull (Solicitors),
4 Bloomsbury Close,
Woburn,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

National Anthem

From Mr Antony Randle
Sir, The Church of England Liturgical Commission would seem to be engaged in a scarcely necessary exercise if it is concerned to remove knavish tricks and politicks from the National Anthem (report, April 9; letters, April 14, 17).

Of 19 different hymnals on my shelves, I find the offending verse in only five (and three of those are old editions of *Hymns Ancient & Modern*), with eight books printing the first and third verses (more or less) as given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for October, 1745, with five giving those verses and additional matter from other sources (mostly from the hymn "God Bless Our Native Land" by W. E. Hickson, a 19th-century boot manufacturer), and with one providing the Official Peace Version approved in 1919 by the Privy Council. This last has met with no more successful acceptance than has any other of

the many attempts to rewrite the National Anthem.

At the conclusion of her Majesty's Coronation service in 1953, two verses of the National Anthem were sung: the two verses printed in the eight books referred to above, beginning with the lines "God save our gracious Queen" and "Thy choicest gifts in store". These are the verses most commonly used.

But for some the words are no matter. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1931, Mr Philip Snowden, declared in Parliament that the words did not signify, and that only the tune was the National Anthem.

Composers have been moved to include it in their works: Beethoven, as your leading article remarked (April 11), wrote Variations upon it — and in his diary noted that he did so "... to show the English what a blessing they have in 'God Save The King'". Brahms, Weber, Rink, Thalberg, Debussy all referred to the anthem in their works, to say nothing of the Variations written by the American composer Ives.

Gordon Jacob wrote for the Coronation service a setting of the National Anthem in four-square harmony, prefaced by a splendid Fanfare, and this I reckon the optimum version available today. It is by far preferable to Elgar's arrangement which is repetitious, too high in pitch, and with its dotted quaver rhythms and staccato notes not a little comic.

The National Anthem, in the Coronation version, is fine. Leave it alone.

Sincerely,
ANTONY RANDLE
(Organist and Director of Music),
Arnold Lodge School,
Kenilworth Road,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Teachers in control of schools

From the General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers

Sir, You are right to suggest (leading article, April 11) that a far-sighted profession might have been expected to welcome the moves which have been made to transfer the control of schools from town halls to the teachers, actually working with children and young people. Why has there been such an outcry from the ranks of teachers against this hugely laudable development?

The reason is that teachers in the maintained sector of education have until now lived in a protected environment. They have been able to leave major management decisions to politicians and bureaucrats, and blame them when the public has complained about educational standards. It would be altogether astonishing if they were not apprehensive about what lies ahead.

What teachers need just now is some public gesture of confidence in their ability to accept this responsibility, rather than utterances on their behalf questioning the need for change.

The way is clearly open for the Government to make such a gesture. If John MacGregor really believes in handing teachers greater responsibility for the conduct of their affairs, he should allow them to have the General Teaching Council they have been demanding for some time. Were he to do so, it would lift morale at a stroke. Yours faithfully,
PETER DAWSON,
General Secretary,
Professional Association of Teachers,
St James's Court,
77 Frier Gate, Derby.

NHS reforms

From Professor W. H. Barker
Sir, The death of Professor Norman Exton-Smith (obituary, April 5) is an occasion of great sadness and reflection. He is aptly described as one of the pioneers of the now thriving specialty of geriatric medicine, "an essential development within the National Health Service".

In essence, these pioneers, working within the NHS, fashioned models of comprehensive care which link together the community, general hospital and long-stay services needed by older persons — and which have been widely admired and emulated around the world.

As an academic physician from the US, where the private market model produces highly frag-

mented and inefficient health services for older people, I have studied and written extensively for our "home market" on the virtues of British geriatric medicine.

It is accordingly with great concern that I caution against the current NHS reform proposals which, in the interest of privatising and marketing medical services, would fragment the remarkable legacy of comprehensive care for older people fashioned by Professor Exton-Smith and his peers. (In brief, don't do it). Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM H. BARKER
(Associate Professor of Gerontology and Community Medicine),
University of Rochester Medical Center,
Box 644,
Rochester, NY 14642, USA.

From Mr Stuart Sexton
Sir, I addressed a conference of 100 or so headteachers well before the 1987 general election and well before LMS (local management of schools) became official Government policy, advocating that principle. One headteacher stood up part way through my speech and angrily exclaimed, "the trouble with you, Sexton, is that you are trying to impose freedom!"

Yours faithfully,
STUART SEXTON
(Director, Education Unit,
Institute of Economic Affairs),
Warrington Park School,
Chesham Common,
Warrington, Surrey,
April 11.

ment and inefficient health services for older people, I have studied and written extensively for our "home market" on the virtues of British geriatric medicine.

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Rochester, NY 14642, USA.

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Hardback novels

From Mr David Holbrook
Sir, Valerie Grosvenor Myer (April 9) draws attention to a serious crisis in the publishing and distribution of serious fiction, a crisis which is much worse than anyone realises. The public libraries seem to have abandoned their responsibilities in this realm, buying paperbacks and videos which users could surely purchase for themselves, while dropping the purchase of serious hardback fiction.

Thus a novel which would sell 4,000 copies in hardback in 1966, and 2,000 in 1977, today sells only 300 to 500 copies, which is not enough to cover its production costs.

Letters of rejection bewail the publisher's inability to publish, declaring that the manuscript may be "well-written" but "unpublishable in today's frenetic market".

The process is due, of course, to the triumph of television, and the vast altarity of our time — people can read but don't.

Yours etc.
DAVID HOLBROOK,
Denmore Lodge,
Brunswick Gardens,
Cambridge,
April 9.

Body language

From Dr David Stevenson
Sir, Peter Brooks's cartoon of the Prime Minister in the shape of Great Britain (April 11) makes a general point symbolically: her back is resolutely turned to Europe. But all the best symbols are complex, and other messages, intentional or otherwise, are contained in this striking image.

North-east Scotland is out of the back of Mrs Thatcher's head. Five gets it in the neck. The Highlands are awarded a baleful glare, a piercing nose and an open mouth.

War horses

From Mr Cornelis J. de Jong
Sir, Apropos your report and photograph (March 29) and the letters (April 4, 16) about Napoleon's charger Marengo, we have in our grounds the grave of another of his chargers called Jaffa. The grave is marked by a 4 ft pillar of Wealden sandstone on which the original inscription read: "Under this stone lies Jaffa, the famous charger of Napoleon, aged 37 years."

The carving has long since weathered away, but the inscription is duplicated on a bronze disc fixed to the flat top of the pillar in the beginning of the century.

Jaffa, a grey Arab, was put down because of old age, probably in the year 1829, which would make him senior to Marengo by three years.

According to one account, Jaffa was brought to Glassenbury by a Frenchman who, between 1815 and 1830, appears to have rented the house from its then owners, the ancient family of Roberts.

While Marengo stands upright in his museum case, Jaffa rests more peacefully in Kentish earth. Yours faithfully,
CORNELIS J. DE JONG,
Glassenbury Park,
Cranbrook, Kent.

A little to the south the message is a bit more positive. Stirling is not the jewel in the crown, but at least it is the pearl in the ear, and Edinburgh and Glasgow are harmoniously joined (for once) by a string of pearls. North-east England gets a shoulder that looks distinctly cold, but the east in general forms the backbone and the North-west is granted the heart — or is the prognosis, more pessimistically, bust.

Aggressively folded arms hold out little comfort for Wales, the South-west gets the boot put in, while the knees are carefully poised for a swift jab at Eire's vitals.

Hampshire is uniquely favoured, being blessed with the promise implicit in the cornucopian handbag. It's Londoners I'm really sorry for ... Yours faithfully,
DAVID STEVENSON (Director),
Centre of Scottish Studies,
University of Aberdeen,
Taylor Building,
King's College,
Old Aberdeen,
April 12.

Measure for measure

From Mr F. Ellis
Sir, About 10 years ago, a Swedish visitor told me that Swedes were saying that metrication was being introduced in Britain inch by inch.

It still seems to be true. Yours faithfully,
F. ELLIS,
39 Limes Road,
Folkestone, Kent,
April 12.

OBITUARIES



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, accompanied by The Princess of Wales, attended a charity premiere of "The Hunt for Red October" in aid of the Trust and the Scottish

International Education Trust at the Empire Theatre, Leicester Square.
Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith, Commander Alistair Watson RN and Miss Richard Arbuter were in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will open the annual dogs conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland at Hutton Hall, Hutton, Lancashire, at 11.40; will visit G.E.C. Alsthorpe, Leicestershire, at 1.10; the Riversway Docklands Development at 1.15; and the T.F.L. Group, Interior Designers, Riversway, Preston, at 2.35.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Girl Guides Association, will attend the launch of the new uniform at Westminster Central Hall at 1.45.

Princess Alexandra will attend a concert at St James's Palace at 7.20 in aid of St Loye's College for Training Disabled People for Employment, Exeter.

Prince Michael of Kent, as patron, will attend a meeting of the Trustees of The David Shepherd Conservation Foundation, Godalming, at 5.30.

Birthdays today

Sir Walter Clegg, former MP, 70; Mr Roger de Grey, president, Royal Academy, 72; Mr Alan Devereux, former chairman, Scottish Tourist Board,

57; the Marquess of Donegall, 74; Miss Sylvia Fisher, soprano, 80; Sir Peter Horden, MP, 61; Mr Peter Jeffrey, actor, 61; Lord Letherland, 72; Lord Mason of Barnley, 66; Miss Hayley Mills, actress, 44; the Rev Dominic Milroy, OSB, headmaster, Ampleforth College, 58; Baroness Platt of Writtle, 67; the Right Rev for E.J.K. Roberts, former Bishop of Ely, 82; Sir Edgar Unsworth, former Chief Justice of Gibraltar, 84.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Francis Baring, banker, Larkbeare, Devon, 1740; Louis-Adolphe Thiers, founder and 1st president of the Third Republic of France 1871-73; Marseilles, 1797; George H. Lewis, philosopher, dramatist and scientist, London, 1817; Antonio de Quental, poet, Ponta Delgada, Azores, 1842; Leopold Stowkowski, conductor, London, 1882.

DEATHS: John Leland, antiquary, London, 1532; John Fane, martyr, London, 1587; Erasmus Darwin, physician and poet, Derby, 1802; Sir Robert Smirke, architect, Cheltenham, 1867; Ottorino Respighi, composer, Rome, 1936; H. L. Fisher, historian, London, 1940; Sir John Fleming, electrical engineer, Sidmouth, 1945.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A. Fraser
and **The Hon Victoria Cameron**
The engagement is announced between James Annand, son of Sir Charles and Lady Fraser, of Inverker, Midlothian, and Victoria Christian, daughter of Lord and Lady Cameron, of Lochbroom, Edinburgh.

Mr J.W. Gunston
and **Miss R.G. Elliott**
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Sir Richard Gunston, BT, of Wadhurst, and Mrs Joan Gunston, of Somerset West, South Africa, and Rosalind, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.O. Elliott, of Bower's Mill House, near Guildford.

Mr T.H. Lighton
and **Miss B.J. Ferguson**
The engagement is announced between Thomas, only son of Sir Christopher Lighton, BT, of Doreton, East Lothian, and the late Lady Lighton, and the late Lady Lighton, and the late John Ferguson, of Scotscourt, Blyth Bridge, Peeblesshire.

Mr A.R.G. Way
and **Miss A.R. Goodwin**
The engagement is announced between Anthony, only son of Sir Richard and Lady Way, of Stalton, Hampshire, and Ruth, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Goodwin, of Priors Marston, Warwickshire.

Mr P.G. Clarendon
and **Miss J.G.T. Martin**
The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Clarendon, of The Old Rectory, St Mary's Hill, Kent, and the late Mrs J.G.T. Martin, of St Mary's Hill, Kent.

Mr D.W.G. Enderby
and **Miss N.E.A. Butler**
The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of the late Mr and Mrs Enderby, and Mrs Ronek Slinak, of Spring Grove, Sunningdale, Berkshire, and Bebe, (Nighean) second daughter of Mr Rupert Butler and Mrs Jan Barnes, of 42 de Vere Gardens, Kensington.

Dr T.E. Goodman
and **Dr S.F.B. McTavish**
The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Mr and Mrs T.P. Goodman, of Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire, and Sarah, daughter of Professor R.A. McTavish, of London, and Mrs P.A. Rusby, of The Boat House, Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr N.C.A. Hart
and **Miss J.E. Mitchell**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Dr N.C.A. Hart and the late Mrs D.M. Hart, of Dunstable, Bedfordshire, and Julie, daughter of Mr D. Mitchell, of London, and Mrs P. Spillmeyer, of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Mr J.A. Nicholls
and **Miss C.J. Hay**
The engagement is announced between John, son of Captain G.H. Nicholls, OBE, RN, Reid, and Mrs Nicholls, of Porton, Devizes, and the late Mrs C.J. Hay, of Cherrill, Wiltshire.

Mr T.R.B. Roberts
and **Miss L.M. Merrill**
The engagement is announced between Thomas, younger son of the late Mr H.D. Roberts, and Lucy, daughter of Mr L.C. Merrill, of Star, Wincoburn, Devon, and Mrs S.C. Merrill, of Doynton, Bristol.

Mr J.R.D. Smith
and **Miss C.L. Gibbons**
The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs R.W. Smith, of Comiston, Edinburgh, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Gibbons, of North Street, Berkshire.

Mr R.H.H. Wood
and **Miss C.M. Harrison**
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs R.H.H. Wood, of Edinburgh, and Christine, daughter of Mrs Muriel Harrison, of the late Mr Anthony Harrison, of Kelsale, Suffolk.

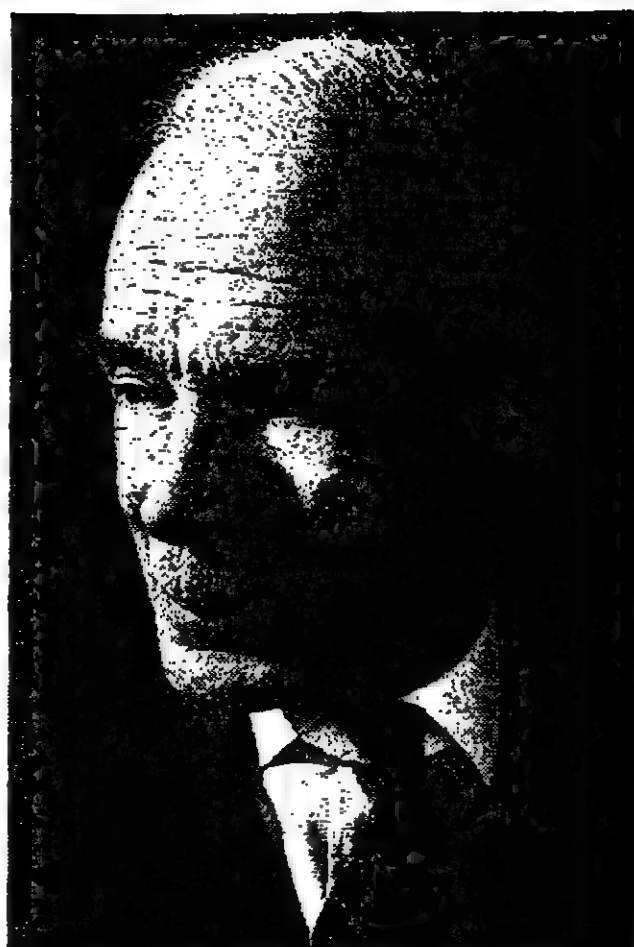
Duncan Alexander Stirling, Chairman of Westminster Bank from 1962 to 1969 and first Chairman of the newly merged National Westminster Bank, died on April 15, aged 90. He was born on October 6, 1899.

TO DUNCAN Stirling goes the credit for being one of the major architects of the epoch-making merger between National Provincial and Westminster Banks. The resulting group, National Westminster, stands with Barclays as one of Britain's two dominant banks and is a monument to Stirling's patient skill in managing people.

A Highlander from Rosshire, Stirling was born of and married into Scottish military families: his father was Major William Stirling and in 1926 he married Lady Marjorie Murray, whose father, the eighth Earl of Dunmore, was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Stirling was educated at Harrow and New College, Oxford, with a year's war service with the Coldstream Guards. He went south to make his career in the City, starting as a trainee with Price Waterhouse, the accountants. However, he soon joined the merchant bank of H. S. Lefevre & Co., becoming a partner in 1929.

In the 1930s he broadened his interests. In 1935 he was elected to the boards of London Life Association, Westminster Bank and its subsidiary, Westminster Foreign Bank. Those appointments marked the beginning of a working relationship which lasted until his death. He had lunch with Lord Alexander, the present chair-



man of National Westminster, only a few weeks ago and dined with him on his command of current banking questions.

The latter half of the 1960s was a crucial period in Stirling's career. From 1964 to 1966 he was President of Institute of Bankers, and from 1966 to 1968 he was simultaneously Chairman of the Committee of London Clearing Banks and President of the British Bankers' Association.

These roles placed him at the heart of three national banking issues.

The first was the creation of a joint negotiating machinery between the banks, their staff associations and the National Union of Bank Employees. Secondly, Stirling was embroiled in the monetary and banking implications of the 14 per cent devaluation of the pound in November, 1967.

And, thirdly, he had to draw the banks' views together on

the implementation of the report on the industry by the National Board for Prices and Incomes.

In the midst of these developments, Stirling was engineering the merger with National Provincial. Westminster was among the smallest of the clearing banks, and the importance of economies of scale in banking were becoming apparent as competition loomed.

Stirling's timing proved impeccable. A year later an attempt by Barclays to take over Lloyds was forbidden, and by the end of 1969 the radical new policy of credit control by competition was instituted.

The ease with which Stirling made friendships earned him considerable additional calls on his time. Next door to Lefevre's office were the headquarters of Baring Brothers, one of the City's leading merchant banks. He struck up an association there which resulted in him spending 10 years on the council of the Baring Foundation. He was invited to join the Fishmongers Company, which he supported for many years. From 1973 to 1981 he was a trustee of the Thelodrome Trust. But Stirling took on these responsibilities with dry humour and an off-nodded twinkle in his eye. He shared the Scottish preference for an economy of speech which frequently understates true feelings. He was fond of country pursuits, particularly fly fishing and shooting, and he became a keen gardener.

Stirling is survived by his widow, Marjorie, and two sons.

MARCOS ROBLES

Marcos Aurelio Robles, who was President of Panama between 1964 and 1968, died aged 84 in Miami on April 14. He was born on November 5, 1905.

WHEN Marcos Robles was President of Panama, his time in office was almost entirely dominated by the dispute between his tiny country and its mighty neighbour, the United States, over the Panama Canal - still in its essence unresolved. Robles knew how to use Panamanian nationalism to stir up the people, but he also sought to lay the basis with the Johnson Administration in Washington for a new treaty governing the Canal Zone more in accordance with his country's sovereignty demands.

Those efforts in the end did not find acceptance by either side and it was only in the 1970s under President Carter and General Torrijos that fresh attempts achieved a new Canal Zone Treaty and a better *modus vivendi*.

Robles took office shortly after one of the periodic stirrings when there was rioting and death on Panama City streets followed up by the government denouncing the 1903 Canal Treaty, breaking off relations with Washington and branding the Americans as "aggressors" before the Security Council.

Angry disputes over flying the Panamanian flag on local American installations were the ostensible issue, but this only symbolised the nation's abiding discontent over its dependent relationship with "Uncle Sam". Washington believed agents of Cuba's Fidel Castro had



stirred up Panama's student rioters.

After tempers had cooled Presidents Robles and Johnson agreed to negotiate over a new Canal treaty. By 1963 an outline for an agreement in principle was reached by the two sides. Provisions of the old 1903 Canal Treaty were renegotiated and Panama's sovereignty over the Canal Zone was to be recognised.

Panama, which then was drawing about one sixth of its gross national product from the waterway, and much more indirectly, desired both a greater share of the revenues and larger US dues. These but, even after a 1955 improvement, still only amounted to \$1.9 million annually.

The agreement also envisaged a second canal to supplement the first and to be built in Panama's territory. A second stage in the negotiations foresaw the US dues being increased to between \$20m and \$30m annually in return for Washington keeping its military installations on the isthmus.

By then, however, Robles's four-year term was almost up and his longstanding chief rival in Panama's politics, Dr Arnaldo Arias, was fighting to become President for a third time. The treaty proposals were denounced as inadequate and were destined never to be submitted for ratification by either government.

Unlike Arias, a rich coffee planter and landowner, Robles was a self-made man. The secret of his success leading Panama's Liberal party lay in combining support from the old ruling families, who saw in him a "safe candidate", and from the broad mass of rural voters. Implementation of his generous electoral promises of reforms to the latter was hampered, however, by the former's resistance.

His presidency ended in disarray in early 1968 when he was ousted by a military coup. He was ordered imprisoned by the National Assembly - at a session boycotted by government deputies - for allegedly violating the constitution.

Robles countered by saying he would stay in office until completing his full term that autumn which, with help from a friendly National Guard chief, he did. There were bloody clashes between the two party leaders' supporters, but Arias won only to be deposed after 11 days in office by a military coup.

Robles spent the rest of his life living in Miami.

KEITH NEAL

William Keith Neal, who died on April 10 aged 84, was generally regarded as the foremost antique firearms expert in Britain. He was born in Hertfordshire on November 11, 1905.

KEITH Neal's collection of old guns was the finest in private hands in the country. He wrote magisterial books, including (with Major D. H. L. Back) *Great British Gunmakers, 1740-1790*. He was three times master of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers.

Keith Neal was the son of a Baptist minister. The family's Hertfordshire house was within sight of the London & North Western Railway and this sparked Keith Neal's collecting instinct. He was an enthusiastic engine-spotter and also became a collector of ceramic and glass insulators from railway telegraph poles; in 1982 he published a book on this recondite aspect of industrial archaeology.

He was fascinated by guns as a child - once by a fake Deringer pistol smuggled into class by a boy who was with him at Berkhamstead preparatory school. Keith Neal obtained the "Deringer" in

exchange for a penknife, and bought some .22 cartridges for it.

After firing it in the garden at home, he carelessly left a cartridge inside. Months later, he shot the bullet, by accident, into his leg. After X-rays, a doctor recommended it should remain there.

After Berkhamstead and the City of London School, he went into the City in an uncle's business, but contracted tuberculosis and moved to Bath.

Life in and around Bath brought Keith Neal the chance to shoot and to look for old guns. Bath had good antique shops.

In 1930, the London gun dealer Frank Russell showed him a large collection of guns he had just bought from the Dowager Countess of Aylesford. It was a unique assemblage of long arms dating from 1725 to 1795, the accumulation of a sporting family who had preserved their obsolete guns in deer grease instead of getting rid of them. Keith Neal was allowed to buy just one gun, a flintlock sporting rifle by John Twigg of London. Later, through a legacy from an aunt, he was able to buy the best of

the rest; but meanwhile Russell was selling several fine examples to other collectors and dealers. Much of *Great British Gunmakers* is the story of how Keith Neal clawed back those firearms, over a lifetime.

At the outbreak of war he was disqualified from joining the armed forces by his history of tuberculosis. But in 1940 he made the first of several trips to the United States (before America entered the war) with a shipment of antique firearms. He sold them for currency for the Ministry of Economic Warfare. The money was used to buy modern handguns for use in intelligence work: Britain was making bombs rather than concentrating on the manufacture of automatic pistols and revolvers.

Shortly after marrying Jane Erskine Murray in 1947 Neal and his family moved into Bishopstrow House at Warminster, a bow-fronted Regency mansion. Keith Neal decided to line with gun-racks the rooms in which the family ate and lived.

In 1976 the decision was made to go to Guernsey. The expense of maintaining Bishopstrow House was too

great. Neal's passionate desire was to keep the collection together, not sell it piecemeal to pay for house repairs. But there were the dangers of living with a large collection of guns in a Georgian building with sash windows. He was not prepared to turn the house into an arsenal.

Keith Neal was happy in Guernsey. Where he lived was unspoilt, old-fashioned and near the sea. A succession of firearms collectors and dealers visited him there.

He was not a slaughtering sportsman - more a figure in the eighteenth or nineteenth-century tradition of his heroes, Colonel Peter Hawker and Captain Horatio Ross. He found it more exciting to take a muzzle-loading flintlock and shoot a rabbit than go out with a modern gun.

Keith Neal's memorials will be his scholarship and his collection. But neither of these was his main concern. In *Great British Gunmakers* he wrote: "My interest in gun collecting has always been that of a shooter first and a collector afterwards. All my life, my first thought on finding a gun has been does it fit me? Can I shoot with it?"



School announcements

Charterhouse
The Cricket Quarter starts today. S.N. Monney is Head of School. J. Cressy and A.T.B. Krick are Deputy heads. W.J. Chignell is Captain of Cricket. Exeat will be on Saturday, May 26, to Wednesday, May 30. The Quarter ends on Saturday, June 30, which is also Old Carthusian Day.

The Cheltenham Ladies' College
The term opens today at the Cheltenham Ladies' College. Half term is from Friday, May 25, (1.00 pm) to Wednesday, May 30, inclusive. The Bishop of Gloucester will visit the confirmation service at 3.00 pm at Cheltenham College Chapel on Saturday, May 5. The Guild Biennial Weekend will take place at College on Saturday, May 12, and Sunday, May 13. College Sports Day will be held at the Prince of Wales Stadium in the morning of Wednesday, July 4. The College Summer Concert is on July 6, in the Princess Hall at 7.30 pm. End of term is Saturday, July 7 which is also Speech Day. This takes place at 11.00 am in the Princess Hall: the Guest Speaker is Sir John Kingman, Vice Chancellor of Bristol University.

Collingham Tutors
The Summer term at Collingham Tutors begins today and ends on Friday, June 15. There will be an Open Evening for the parents of first year A level students on Monday June 11. A Summer Ball will be held at Crosby Hall, Chyne Walk, on Friday June 29.

Ellerslie, Malvern, Worcestershire
The Summer Term starts today. The Head Girl is Lucy Shepherd and her Deputies are Alison Chalkers and Sarah Harcombe. The refurbishment of the Medical Centre has now been completed and work is shortly to commence on the new complex for English teaching. The School Play "She Stoops to conquer" will be performed in the Marquee Play Hall on May 3 and 4. Commemoration will take place on Friday, June 29, at 11.00 am. The guest speaker will be the Chief Executive of PCAS, Mr Tony Higgins. At the

Commemoration Service, which will be at 2.45 pm in Malvern Priory, the preacher will be Mr Richard Knight. Term ends on June 30. The Old Girls' Association will hold their New Colours at the CCF on Saturday June 30. Details are available from the Secretary on 0902 756273.

Eton College
Eton College opens today for the Summer Half. There are 1270 boys in the school. T. Cunningham, KS, continues as Captain of the School and T.G.M. Mitcheson, OS, Captain of the Oppidians. There will be four performances of *The Comedy of Errors* at the Farrier Theatre on May 24, 25, 26 and 27. The 550th Anniversary Celebration will be held on May 29 and the Fourth of June Holiday and Presentation of New Colours to the CCF on May 30. Long Leave will be from May 30 to June 3. The Harrow Match will be played at Lord's on June 9. The Winchester Match at Winchester on June 16 and school closes on June 29.

Farnham School
The Trinity term begins today. There will be a thanksgiving service in memory of Cuthbert Bardell on Friday April 27 at 4.15 pm in the School Chapel to which all Old Foresters and former staff are welcome. Speech Day and the Old Boys' Cricket Match will take place on Saturday May 19. The reunion on September 16 has been extended to include Old Foresters who left between 1955 and 1966. Any Old Foresters who are not on the mailing list should contact the Warden's secretary. Term ends on Friday July 6.

Kimbolton School
Term starts today and ends on July 5. The CCF Annual Inspection will be on May 10. The Confirmation Service will take place in the School Chapel, May 20. Speech Day is on May 26, when Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, KG, GCB, MVO, DSC, will present the prizes. Old Kimboltonians' Day is June 23. The School Play "A Man for All Seasons" will be performed in the Castle Courtyard on June

28, to June 30. The School Concert will be on July 1.

Leighton Park
Summer Term at Leighton Park begins today and ends on June 30. Richard Montgomery, OBE, with Marian Montgomery, OBE, giving a concert on May 12. The Centenary Ball is on Friday, May 18, Open Day on May 19, Sunday Evening at 7.30 on May 20, when Canon Paul Oestreicher will be the Speaker. Music for a Summer Evening is on Saturday, June 16. Any Old who wishes for further details of these events is invited to write to the Centenary Secretary at the school.

Malvern College
Summer Term begins at Malvern College today. J.H.R. Haddley is Senior Chapel Prefect and A.M. Harrison is Junior Chapel Prefect. The Summer Concert is on Saturday, May 19; the Half-Term Exeat is on May 26 to 31. Performances of *The Tempest* will be given in Ashburham Garden on June 25, 26 and 27. Term ends on June 28 and the Election Dinner will take place on that day.

Westminster School
Election Term begins today. There are 571 members of the School, 610 in the Great School and 261 in the Under School. R.H. Goodhart continues as Captain of the School and C.M.M. Ash is Captain of Cricket. The School Concert will be on Monday, April 23, at School and will include Beethoven's Violin Concerto. The Challenge will be held on May 8, 9 and 10. Exeat is from May 26 to 31. Performances of *The Tempest* will be given in Ashburham Garden on June 25, 26 and 27. Term ends on June 28 and the Election Dinner will take place on that day.

Repton School
Summer Term at Repton School begins today. Commemoration and Speech Day will be on Saturday, May 26, at which the preacher will be the Archbishop of York and the speaker will be Lord Chilvers. Repton Preparatory School celebrates its Golden Jubilee this term with a reception on Friday, May 25, at Repton. Past pupils who have not yet received an invitation should contact the Headmaster.

St Godric's College
St Godric's College welcomes former students and their partners to the Summer Ball on Saturday, June 24, at the White House, 82 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London, NW3. Tickets £30.00 from the Ball Secretary, 2 Ashworth Road, London, NW3 6AD. Telephone: 01-435 9831.

Wellington School
The Trinity Term at Wellington School begins today and ends on Friday, July 6. Mr E. Tebbett joins the staff as head of instrumental studies and Mr J.R. Haste as head of design and technology. The Combined Cadet Force Inspection will take place on Wednesday, May 2, On Saturday, May 12, at 3.00 pm in chapel there will be a memorial service for Mr W.V. Hawkes, OBE, who was on the Governing Body from 1948 to 1989. Open Day and Old Wellingtonian Summer Day is Saturday, June 30, to which Olds from the 1940s are specially invited and all former members of the Junior School from the period 1940 to 1970.

Worcester School
Election Term begins today. There are 571 members of the School, 610 in the Great School and 261 in the Under School. R.H. Goodhart continues as Captain of the School and C.M.M. Ash is Captain of Cricket. The School Concert will be on Monday, April 23, at School and will include Beethoven's Violin Concerto. The Challenge will be held on May 8, 9 and 10. Exeat is from May 26 to 31. Performances of *The Tempest* will be given in Ashburham Garden on June 25, 26 and 27. Term ends on June 28 and the Election Dinner will take place on that day.

Marriage
Dr R.C. Fordham
and **Miss J.F. Johnson**
A service of blessing was held at St Nicolas Church, Emdon, Southall, on April 7, after the marriage of Dr Richard Fordham, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.W. Fordham, of Newcastle Emlyn, and Jane, daughter of Mr V.H. Johnson, of Emdon House and Mrs Kay Lloyd, of Harbourne, Birmingham. The bride was attended by Medeni Fordham, Matthew Devereaux was Best Man. A reception was held at Emdon House and the honeymoon is being spent in Tuscany.

Reception
HM Government
Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, was host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government last night at Lancaster House in honour of representatives of the member states of the Southern African Development Conference.

University news

Glasgow
From the Science & Engineering Research Council £77,033 to Professors D.J. Sherratt & M.R. Boccock (Genetics) to investigate TN3 RES synthesis and strand exchange in transposon resolution site-specific recombination.

From the Scottish Home & Health Department £55,337 to Professor J.H. Adams (Neuropathology) & Professor B. Bennett (Neurosurgery) for a study of the pathogenesis of potentially preventable brain damage.

Memorial services
Colonel Sir Hugh Bransby The Thanks Giving Service for the life of Colonel Sir Hugh Bransby, K.C.V.O., O.B.E., M.C. will be held at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, Wilton Place, London SW1, on Monday May 14 at 12 noon.

Lieutenant Colonel Robin Hastings
A Memorial Service for Lieutenant Colonel Robin Hastings, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C. will take place in Winchester Cathedral, on Monday April 23, at 2.30 pm.

Dinner
Royal Society of Medicine
Sir Christopher Booth, President of the Royal Society of Medicine, accompanied by Lady Booth, presided at a dinner held yesterday in the Society's House. Sir Ralf Dalmeida, Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford, was the guest speaker. Among those present were:

Lord and Lady Perrett, Lord and Lady South, Lady Dalmeida, Professor Sir Gordon and Lady Robinson, Sir John and Lady Gifford, Sir David and Lady Williams and Sir Gordon and Lady Williams.

Reception
HM Government
Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, was host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government last night at Lancaster House in honour of representatives of the member states of the Southern African Development Conference.

SCIENCE REPORT

Friends and foe in the sea

THE symbiotic relationship between coral polyps and the microscopic green algae that live inside their cells is as delicate as any arms control negotiation, as some new research from Israel discloses: delicate enough to be threatened by man-made pollution.

The Red Sea coral *Stylophora pistillata* is carnivorous, but gives house room to green algae that provide an extra source of nourishment.

The algae, meanwhile, flourish under the protection of the colonial reef-building animals, and get a food bonus in the form of the coral's metabolic wastes.

In order to survive, these two very different organisms - algae and coral - must co-operate as finely as any Olympic figure skating team: the limits of this co-existence are explored in a series of complicated experiments by researchers from Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, and several universities in the United States.

The results, published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London* (vol. B 239, pp. 231-246), show that the growth of algae inside corals is limited by the amount of

nitrogen in the water. But if there were too much, the algae would grow until they took all the available light. This would seriously compromise the health of the coral host, not to mention its hospitality.

But nitrates (and phosphates, too) are just the things that get washed off farmers' fields or out of sewers and dumped in the sea. Once in a coral reef, the dyspeptic and algae-clogged corals would not be able to outgrow an onslaught of seaweed spurred on by a bonanza of free fertilizer. A sudden decline in oxygen concentrations would soon put an end to the spree, leaving a dead reef.

Nature, though, is a much more attentive regulator. Phosphates, particularly, are usually rare in the sea, which partly explains why algae and corals join forces: two organisms make better use of a limited resource than one alone.

At the other extreme, the availability of light (a requirement for the algae to grow) limits how many algae can live in a cell at once without shading one another.

The more algae there are, the less efficiently they photosynthesize. The researchers

found though, that added nitrates led to increased algal growth, added nitrates and phosphates even more: the concentrations sometimes found in pollution might promote more algal growth than a coral could support.

Not that the coral cannot get its own back. Coral polyps are very like small sea anemones and, although sedentary, can catch and eat small planktonic animals. When the researchers' corals were fed with shrimp larvae, the resident algae still grew more than they would have normally, but not as much as if extra nitrate and phosphate were added.

Nitrate and phosphate can be absorbed equally well by the algae and the coral, but the resources must be shared so that the health of neither party is compromised. The coral, though, will have the advantage when shriving is on the menu, because the shrimp must be digested by the coral's own digestive system before the algae can get a look in.

This is why, with only the left overs, the algae grow less profusely than they would were pure minerals added.

Henry Gee

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Church news

The Bishop of London announced on April 7 that he has tendered his resignation from the See of London, such resignation to take effect on May 8 1991.

Appointments
Rev Michael Adams, Vicar, St Agnes, St Albans, has been appointed to be the new Vicar of St Agnes, St Albans, on May 8 1991. Rev David H. Hogg, Chaplain, St Agnes, St Albans, has been appointed to be the new Chaplain of St Agnes, St Albans, on May 8 1991.

Top conductors are being signed up fast, but not by the London Philharmonic. Richard Morrison reports

Maestro, a podium awaits

As games of musical chairs go, the exercise that has occupied the world's leading conductors and orchestras for the last two or three years has proffered onlookers great entertainment. The game usually requires fewer chairs than participants, but a piquant feature of this version was that a large number of vacant chairs chased rather fewer outstanding maestros.

Did the conductors therefore hold all the advantages? Not really. Running the game were more shadowy figures: a handful of record company bosses and agents in Hamburg, Tokyo and New York. Their names are unknown to the average concertgoer, but increasingly they decide who plays what, where, when and for how much.

That is the classical music business, 1990. One might expect the greatest conductors, at least, to control their own destinies, but "business" considerations often seem more pressing. There is a neat symbolism in the fact that Herbert von Karajan was entertaining Japanese business associates on his last day alive.

One by one, the finest European and American orchestras have clawed their way through this Byzantine selection and negotiation process, making appointments which have mostly swept away a durable old guard and brought in younger men. The Berlin Philharmonic did avoid the main "music business" candidates; instead, it made the brilliant choice of Claudio Abbado as Karajan's successor. The Amsterdam Concertgebouw, rather more riskily, opted for the heavy Italianate manner of Riccardo Chailly to succeed Bernard Haitink.

Daniel Barenboim, rebuffed and wounded by the Bastille Opera fiasco in Paris, emerged to accept the challenge of following Sir Georg Solti in Chicago, and in Los Angeles, André Previn's bitter resignation from a reputed \$500,000 music directorship has been followed, to the American musical press's bewilderment, by the appointment of Esa-Pekka Salonen, a 32-year-old Finn. Finally, last week, the New York Philharmonic announced Kurt Masur as Zubin Mehta's successor. That should be a battle worth

watching: a bunch of players whose favourite hobby has been ganging up on their music directors, faced by a shrewd, highly experienced East German who has ruled the Leipzig Gewandhaus with an iron fist for 20 years.

There is, of course, one notable omission from this list. The London Philharmonic has been without a principal conductor longer than any other orchestra mentioned above — since Klaus Tennstedt resigned for health reasons in 1987. Since then it has relied on a strong roster of guest conductors. Now, however, the LPO must choose a music director, and choose quickly. As the South Bank Board has made clear, that is a prerequisite of the LPO being installed as the Festival Hall's resident orchestra in 1992.

Moreover, the new music director will enjoy greater powers than any conductor of a London orchestra has ever had. One should not underestimate the extent to which the LPO has dropped its long-cherished self-governing status to achieve this. He will, in effect, determine the shape of concert life in Britain's premier musical venue for years to come.

The thinking at both the South Bank and the London Philharmonic is that many crucial issues still have to be resolved before a "package" can be laid at the feet of a chosen maestro. For instance, the Arts Council has yet to say whether the LPO's new resident status at the Festival Hall qualifies it for special funding. A lurking possibility that all the London orchestras might be devolved to Greater London Arts for funding must be dispelled: no conductor of any eminence would tolerate being answerable to a body so identified with the "community arts" ethos. The LPO's working pattern (more specifically, its rehearsing pattern) in the Festival Hall also needs to be firmly established.

A residency contract between LPO and South Bank could be signed by September. No one expects a music director announcement before then. Yet there are signs already that venue and orchestra could be at variance on the music director question. The South Bank's artistic director, Nicholas Snowman, primarily sees the residency as an orchestral adventure, high quality if possible.

The LPO's managing director, John Willan, would probably put it the other way round: world-class orchestral quality first; adventurous programmes second. Translated into conducting terms, one could call it Pierre Boulez versus Georg Solti.

There are other limiting factors. Some admirable conductors are too heavily identified with other London orchestras, such as the excellent Leonard Slatkin (closely associated with the Philharmonia — which is also looking for a music director to follow Sinopoli) or the 20th-century music specialist Kent Nagano (committed to the LSO). Other fine musicians simply have no "profile" with the London public: Wolfgang Sawallisch is a prime example. Finally there are those, such as Leonard Bernstein or Carlos Kleiber, who produce glorious concerts but have neither the time, temperament or desire to undertake the responsibilities of a music director. Just as well, since London could not afford them.

Still, that leaves many other possibilities. The list below may be exhausting, but is certainly not exhaustive.

Pierre Boulez: Aged 65. His BBC Symphony Orchestra years gave London its most stimulating Proms ever; his links with living composers are unparalleled; his interpretations of the classics always provocative and awesomely analytical. Tied to IRCAM in Paris, however, and British musicians do not relate comfortably to his Gallic intellectualism.

Christoph von Dohnányi: Aged 60. Currently directing the superb Cleveland Orchestra; a serious musician with a reputation for imposing a severe, somewhat humourless regime of discipline on orchestras. He would give London intelligent programmes, immaculately prepared — but would not be the players' choice.

Ten names for the South Bank

Bernard Haitink: Aged 61. Would be the perfect candidate: musicians revere him, his repertoire is wide, and his interpretations grow more astonishing each year. Only two snags: the small matter of his being music director at Covent Garden, and his intention (revealed to *The Times* earlier this year) never to hold another permanent orchestral post, after the sad termination of his long Amsterdam association.

Marius Jansons: Aged 47. His work with the Oslo Philharmonic has revealed him as an orchestral trainer of exquisite subtlety. Latvian-born, Leningrad-trained, as yet no reputation for adventure.

Zubin Mehta: Aged 53. Still has the Israel PO, but has left New York. The London Philharmonic offered him the music directorship in 1988, and were turned down, but the new South Bank residency may change his mind. British critics, however, would give his flashy, none-too-probing interpretations a rough ride.

Riccardo Muti: Aged 48. He has La Scala, Milan, but will relinquish the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1992. His music-making seems to have renounced some of its

former fire in favour of a limousine-like plushness, but his name still packs halls and sells discs.

Seiji Ozawa: Aged 54. Graceful, charismatic, charming and only slightly inscrutable. Ozawa has been in Boston for 17 years; both sides may be restless. Too fine a conductor to languish long without a new tenure.

Simon Rattle: Aged 35. For Britain's finest conductor to come to the helm of the capital's music-making would seem obvious, but Rattle's loyalty to Birmingham has survived many succulent lures already. He could, however, lead

his Birmingham orchestra into its new hall, and still arrive in London for the LPO's residency.

Sir Georg Solti: Aged 77. Becoming music director at the South Bank for a fixed term would undoubtedly fit in with the indefatigable Solti's idea of a peaceful retirement. He might also relish the post as a crowning glory of his contribution to British musical life. His musical clout would certainly set the Festival Hall buzzing.

Franz Welser-Möst: Aged 29. Too inexperienced yet to be a serious contender, perhaps — except that the LPO has kept faith with this gifted Austrian, and his interpretations grow steadily more mature.



Differing styles: Pierre Boulez (top), analytical exactitude and Gallic intellect; and Marius Jansons, Latvian-born specialist in subtlety

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Brash display of showmanship

ROCK
David Sinclair
Sonny Sharrock
Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE Kaitting Factory tour reached London in ragged shape. The six bands, currently touring across Europe under the banner of the tiny New York club where they are all regular performers, are said to represent the mutant form of experimental rock-jazz that is currently to be found at the cutting edge of Manhattan's avant-garde "downtown" scene.

and on some occasions the "luxury" of a hotel room has had to be foregone in favour of overnight journeys on the bus. But on the second night of this South Bank residency, Miracle Room's percussionist Rock Savage collapsed backstage and the group's equipment had to be disassembled without a note having been played.

An earlier set by the Japanese-American quartet Boshu had been full of mystery and promise, but the hole in the middle of the programme (three acts per show) threw a greater emphasis on headliner Sonny Sharrock than was perhaps intended.

Having recorded in the Sixties with the likes of Don Cherry, Wayne Shorter and Miles Davis, Sharrock has more recently become better known as the guitarist in Bill Laswell's metal jazz agglomerate Last Exit.

Unfortunately, his own band did not, on this occasion, sound as if they were on the cutting edge of anything, as they lumbered through a wodge of one-dimensional riffs with a heavy handedness which one would more readily associate with a Seventies' pub-rock fusion act.

Above all, the sense of mission that this tour supposedly embodies was entirely absent, as so much enviable talent was sacrificed on the altar of brash, misplaced showmanship.



Showman: Sonny Sharrock

seemed to overplay his hand, abandoning melodies in favour of frenetic, disorganized scrawls across the fretboard.

The twin drumming of Lance Carter and Abe Spiller was powerful but scrappy and too often wasted on straight four-in-the-bar rock patterns played in unison. Dave Snyder's keyboard playing had a lounge-bar feel to it and bassist Melvin Gibbs ploughed through a fuzz-distorted bass solo of a backneyed nature.

Above all, the sense of mission that this tour supposedly embodies was entirely absent, as so much enviable talent was sacrificed on the altar of brash, misplaced showmanship.

Reign of the orator

Jasper Rees
Mandela Concert
Wembley Stadium

THERE was only one roof-raiser at this gig, and he has never sold an album in 71 years on the planet. Were John Lennon brought back to life and the Beatles reunited, they could count themselves lucky to receive a tenth of the ovation accorded to Nelson Mandela on Monday night at Wembley Stadium.

Some musicians were there too, and at least in this column, they deserve mention.

The creditable thing about the International Tribute for Nelson Mandela was that, for all its enormous significance and for all the vastness of its worldwide audience, there was the minimum of the rabble-rousing which often mars stadium rock events. The proceedings were summed up when, some way into the show, Ben Elton, one of the compères, whipped the audience into a rock 'n' roll frenzy to introduce Terence Trent D'Arby, who came on to sing a slow chant.

There was a lot of that — songs dedicated to the concert's special guest, full of respect and warmth and earnestness. Rock used to be about rebellion and pumping up the volume, but it grew up a long time ago. In a venue as cavernous

as this, the volume has to be pumped up, but, especially in the show's first half, the emphasis was on quieter sounds.

Lou Reed strummed a couple of songs on his guitar; Tracy Chapman crooned "Let Us All Be Free"; Daniel Lanois plucked out a restrained anthem for Nelson; and a soul consortium of Anita Baker, Natalie Cole, Mica Paris and Bonnie Raitt harmonized "Blowin' in the Wind".

Despite major decibel assaults from Simple Minds, the Neville Brothers, George Duke and his Band and Neneh Cherry, Steasonie and the Jungle Brothers, there was little to raise the temperature by more than a degree or two. The night's mood was of dignity rather than passion.

Appropriately, the music that prospered best against Wembley's deafening acoustics was that of Africa, with its crisp choral simplicity and its exaltation of horns over guitars.

You would have to pity the singer following Mandela, but if there was anyone to take on the job it was Tracy Chapman, with her sublimely moving "Revolutions Song". Then, it was the turn of Simple Minds, followed by Peter Gabriel, who rounded off the show with his choral ballad, "Biko".

As a result of one night, the dismissive record store categorization, "World Music", finally means something.

Commemorate the Dunkirk spirit with The Times 50th Anniversary Tour.

1990 is the fiftieth anniversary of the "Miracle of Dunkirk". To celebrate, readers of *The Times* are invited to join a unique two day tour, in the company of Col "Pat" Porteous VC, who was evacuated at Dunkirk.

It will be an unforgettable occasion. Literally thousands of Dunkirk veterans will be returning to parade in the town to pay their respects to those comrades who did not return.

The RAF will pay their tribute in a dramatic Fly Past, a wreath-laying ceremony will take place in the Dunkirk Cemetery and a Ceremony of Remembrance will be held at The Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing.

The highlight of the commemorations will undoubtedly be the sight of a flotilla of 60-70 survivors of "The Little Ships".

The tour will leave London from Victoria by coach on Saturday May 26th at 10.30am, arriving Dover at 12.30pm (you may join the tour either at London or Dover). You will then travel from Calais by coach to the well appointed Mercure Hotel, Lille. After dinner you can look forward to a fascinating talk by Col "Pat" Porteous VC.

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THE  TIMES

Festival that dares to speak its name

David Robinson reports on a festival of films with homosexual themes, in Turin

It is a matter of civic pride for every major Italian town to have its own film festival. Turin, as befits its cultural standing, has three: a youth film festival, a sports film festival and — unique in continental Europe — a festival of films concerned with homosexuality. The fifth homosexual film festival, just ended, had the provocative slogan "De Sodoma a Hollywood", and a cheeky logo showing Charlie Chaplin flirting with an unresponsive Frankenstein monster.

The festival shows how considerable the annual production of films reflecting homosexual issues or sensibilities is. This year Turin found more than 30 titles (including shorts). In addition to retrospectives of the work of Derek Jarman and silent films about homosexuality.

A new phenomenon is the acceptance of homosexuality as a theme for film-makers in Eastern Europe, where for 40 years socialist regimes dismissed the subject as decadent. *Coming Out*, by the East German Heiner Carow has already won the Silver Award at the Berlin Film Festival. Its premise was on the day that the Berlin Wall was breached, and its writer, Wolfgang Witt, sees it as a reflection of the problems facing the new Europe. "To find oneself, to accept the contradictions of one's own being, implies a great assumption of responsibility."

By Western standards, the content is not new, but the film is made with professional confidence, as a mainstream commercial film, and has broken box-office records in Germany. It is the story of a young teacher whose ambivalent sexual feelings surface, resulting in the disruption of

his stable heterosexual relationship. It is an honest, generous film, which observes the conflicting love affairs with sympathy, and resists the temptation of a neat last-reel solution.

A special fascination of the film is that some scenes are clearly shot in authentic gay locales; and there is a touching encounter with a real-life character, an aged homosexual who recalls the Nazi period when he and his friends ended up in concentration camps, and the communist era that followed and brought no greater tolerance. Another German film, Richard Oswald's *Anders als die Anderen* (*Different from the Others*), made 70 years ago, has a similar documentary fascination. It is said that a film of 1990 has to make the same plea for tolerance as one made in 1919. Conrad Veidt (best remembered as the German officer in *Casablanca*) plays a homosexual musician who falls victim to a blackmail. When the case comes to court, the blackmailer is hardly punished but his accuser is so disgraced that he commits suicide.

The film gives unusual insights into gay life in the first days of the Weimar Republic. We glimpse cafes where men dance with men, and women in double-breasted suits, ties and trilby hats flirt with girls. The hero's home has a Wilderian decadence of cushions, flowers and silk dressing-gowns.

The pioneer sexologist, Dr Magnus Hirschfeld, appears in person in the film to expound his theories on sexual tolerance and legal reform.

Commercial films of the silent era attempted sophisticated themes. In 1928 Wilhelm Dieterle



Documentary fascination: *Anders als die Anderen*, 1919

directed and acted in *Geschlecht in Fesseln* (*Sex in Chains*), an attack on the prison system which relates the tragedy of a prisoner who falls in love with a fellow-inmate, while his wife falls in love with her boss.

Contemporary British films were much in evidence. Turin honoured Derek Jarman with a complete retrospective, a book surveying his achievement and a special award for his work. Surprisingly, he has now made some 50 films, including shorts and videos, and a new film, *The Garden*, which is due soon.

Jarman's influence is evident in the baroque visual adventures of a

young Greek, Constantine Giannaris, whose credits include *Jean Genet is Dead and Travels*, which was co-produced by the Arts Council and the Greek Film Centre, and celebrates the life and poetry of Constantine Cavafy.

A more characteristically British approach is evident in the naturalism and irony — something between Ealing Comedy and *Brief Encounter* — of Richard Kwanowski's *Flames of Passion*. Co-produced by the British Film Institute and Channel Four, it is a poker-faced recital of the erotic daydreams of a strait-laced



Placebo or remedy?

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

● The Oxford Book of Humorous Prose, edited by Frank Muir, is published by OUP on April 26, £17.95.

Doubtless Sir John would have some equally ready advice. That is another great thing about television: freedom to interfere in the lives of others and no need to live with the consequences.

APPENDIX B

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PARENTS

Bringing up a boy wonder

What do you do when your 13-year-old son starts asking questions about hyperspace and the randomness of the universe?

Alexandra King looks at the burdens and bonuses of raising a gifted child

Stuart McDonald started his parents by reading the newspaper to them when he was three. But it was the endless stream of questions which really alerted Terry and Wendy McDonald to their child's extraordinary intelligence. "I used to brace myself when I'd hear him coming," Mrs McDonald says. "It was never 'Hello, mum', it was always a torrent of questions so that, by the time he got to you, you didn't know which one to start with. Or it would be, 'Mum, I've just had this idea

Stuart, aged 13, can laugh at this now — along with his father, a panel-beater, mother and 23-year-old brother, Jamie, who has been known to demand: "Doesn't he have an 'off' switch?" Fortunately he has a sense of humour, which acts as an antidote to the intensity of his intellect. "We share the same offbeat sense of humour, which I exploit to the full because he can become so bogged down in such serious thoughts that we have to lighten him very quickly," his mother says.

Stuart has rarely slept more than four to five hours a night and is invariably the last member of the family to go to sleep. His electronic typewriter clacks away into the small hours, creating a new language or an imaginary world for one of the intricate, role-playing games he delights in devising.

"Sometimes I don't think about anything and it's that that keeps me awake," he says. He is becomingly modest about his many talents. Asked whether he made the impressive model ship on his bedroom shelf, he says self-deprecatingly: "Oh, but I didn't design it or anything." If he is commended on his phenomenal sharp memory — he can recall things that happened before he was a year old — he says: "But it's not photographic."

Stuart has the potential to become another highly publicized prodigy like Ruth Lawrence, but both he and his parents are determined that he should lead a "normal" life for a boy of his age for as long as possible. He attends his local comprehensive school and his lessons are supplemented by tutorial sessions with a doctor of mathematics at Southampton University. The after-school sessions were arranged after consultation with the Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children and are undoubtedly the high spot of his week.

"I would have thought going to university when you're only 13 would be pretty intimidating, but Stuart doesn't find it so," Mrs McDonald says. "I think it's helped him in all sorts of ways, not just by firing his interest in maths, but in boosting his self-confidence."

"As parents of a child like Stuart you're very much in the dark. You do your best — like bringing up any child, I suppose. But there have been times when I've felt inadequate, and I have had to say 'I don't know the answer to your question, but I'll help you find out.'"

That has not deterred her from sitting at Stuart's side as he tinkers with the Archimedes computer he brings home from school each weekend and holiday. His own small home computer lies gather-

ing dust, like the bicycle bought for his seventh birthday which he has never used. She makes an effort to respond to his speculations on hyperspace and the randomness of the universe rather than switching off because she cannot really comprehend them.

"I wouldn't want to come across as a paragon of a parent," Mrs McDonald says. "There's always been something about Stuart that you could not ignore. It would have been very cruel to ignore his questions, and he's always had the knack of asking the right ones."

Stuart learned about "the birds and the bees", from prostitution to homosexuality, when he was seven, she says, during a school project on the Second World War. "He asked me why the soldiers had headed for a certain district, so I explained to him, which naturally led into an interest in sex. He was absolutely fascinated, and it was so easy to tell him. You weren't talking to a child, you were talking to an adult who didn't happen to know those facts."

These days, she confesses, "we are more likely to learn from Stuart. As we have our evening meal he'll start talking about astrophysics and the theory of time running backwards and I become so engrossed I just sit there, fascinated. And he's never condescending. He never says you're wrong, he just very politely explains. I think Stuart was always terribly worried that he would come across as big-headed, and he's perhaps gone a little too far the other way."

Stuart is an especially sensitive child, his mother believes. "You have to handle him extremely carefully. Not so much now, because he's emotionally maturing, but when he had very bad patches — like when he changes schools — it is absolutely awful for him — it takes him so long to settle down."

One vital weekly ritual is Stuart's weekend walk with his father. "Every weekend he and his Dad go off for a two- or three-hour walk," Mrs McDonald says. "They take the dog and plod all over the countryside so they can, in Stuart's words, 'discuss life, the universe and everything'. Because he's with me such a lot he needs his Dad's influence too — and I do like to have a couple of times free from the questions."

Without attempting to "hothouse" their exceptional son or live through him, the McDonalds have managed to feed his insatiable curiosity.

"We've just listened to him, and answered his questions," Mrs McDonald says. "I don't think I've ever bought something deliberately as a stimulus — except a chess set which one teacher recommended."

His next bedroom is filled with books on astronomy and favourite works of science fiction such as Douglas Adams's *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. There is a television in the corner, plus a telephone and an electric typewriter, but little evidence of the hurly-burly of the average boy's room. His mother insists the neatness is not of her making. "I wouldn't be allowed to touch anything in here," she says.

While he likes "good escapism" science fiction films like *Back to*



Family affair: "We are more likely to learn from him," Mrs McDonald says of Stuart

The Future, just like other boys his age, Stuart adds the disclaimer that "as far as I can work out, it's impossible to change the future by going into the past."

Does he see himself as a future time — or space — traveller? "Not really," Stuart says, and displaying a precocious sense of self-preservation. "I'd rather wait until it's all safe." He says he does not climb trees "because I can't quite understand why people like to do things that are slightly dangerous. And anyway, it makes me feel embarrassed about being descended from an ape."

Although he says he enjoys his schoolwork, he likes to finish his homework as swiftly as possible to be free for the more challenging projects he sets himself — and he seems a relentless taskmaster. "The details he's gone into with his role-playing games is amazing," Mrs McDonald says. "There are pages and pages of character sheets and floor plans."

Stuart's parents say they have never seen him bored. "He just can't wait to get to his room and begin working on the next project," Mrs McDonald says.

Unlike other children who strive to live up to the expectations of their parents and teachers, Stuart has so far exceeded them that his drive to greater accomplishments can only spring from within and only he can

'I can't quite understand why people like to do things that are slightly dangerous'

evaluate them. He says he just does things "because they interest me", and takes a lively interest in almost everything, from French and German to drama and craft, design and technology.

The only areas in which Stuart is less than good are sport, which he shuns, and making friends with children his own age. "They just don't have many activities in common," Mrs McDonald says. "He's recently started having some friends over on a Saturday for role-playing games, which they all like, but generally the other children are interested in playing computer games, whereas Stuart likes to design the programs."

His mother is keenly aware of the isolation which often surrounds a gifted child and, although Stuart listens with impeccable politeness to the conversation of

others going on around him, his eyes will often glaze over as if he is in a little world of his own, participating in a different — and much more demanding — conversation inside his own head.

Stuart had his IQ tested at school, and his parents were told it "went off the scale, whatever that means," his mother remembers. "But people have said to me IQ tests can mean a lot or nothing at all, so I don't set much store by them."

Stuart says he is "not really sure" yet what he would like to do when his physical age catches up with his mental one. "I'd like a career in astrophysics, I think. The ultimate dream is to predict the future."

In the meantime, he is content with "finishing things off and seeing that they work well. That is what excites me. Finishing a project, like a board-game or a role-playing game. I know it's probably impossible, but it's my dream that eventually we'll be able to work out everything that will ever happen in the universe so that we can even calculate human behaviour. But to calculate it we'd need a computer with a separate piece of memory for every atom in the universe and that would require a computer bigger than the universe."

"My car couldn't carry that," jokes his mother.

Rich gifts with a high price

Are early achievers doomed to be weakly swots, or can they lead a normal life?

Child prodigies provoke a curious mixture of envy, fascination, disbelief and dislike. They are often bullied by, or isolated from, their peers, the subject of much publicity, and disparaged by the parents of more ordinary children, who console themselves and their unexceptional offspring with dark mutterings about "early burnout" and unhappy, abnormal lives.

Two books to be published this month, however, dispel many of the unpleasant myths about early achievers. They should help the parents of exceptional children to see that abundance of talent is a gift — and what can be done to develop it. There are lessons for all parents.

The authors — Professor John Radford, an eminent psychologist who has written *Child Prodigies and Exceptional Early Achievers* (Harvester/Wheatsheaf, £9.95) and Mr Victor Serebriakoff, founder and chairman of the Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children, who has produced *Educating the Intelligent Child* (Mensa Publications, £7.95) — have independently reached the conclusion that prodigies are not doomed to be freaks in the sideshow of life.

There is the story of William Sidis, who read at the age of three, knew Russian, French and German at five and was admitted to Harvard University at 11 (where he gave a startlingly original lecture on the fourth dimension), yet died destitute and unemployed.

Professor Radford says this "appeared to exemplify proverbial wisdom, such as 'Early ripe, early rot', but it is, in fact... quite atypical". He is convinced Sidis's circumstances were "a combination of emotional starvation and parental exploitation, exacerbated by continual hostile publicity. Neither his original talents nor even his education, as such, produced the unhappy life."

Professor Radford maintains that most bright children lead lives that fulfil their promise. Both he and Mr Serebriakoff support the findings of the American psychologist Lewis Terman in the early part of this century "which seemed conclusively to disprove traditional notions of the bright child as being below-average in other ways — the weakly, introverted swot."

The two authors also come down firmly on the side of an "elitist" educational system which recognizes that all children are not equal in ability and makes provision for those with special gifts to be educated separately — just like those with special remedial needs. "We should aim for equality of opportunity, not of achievement," Professor Radford says. He condemns the new National Curriculum for encouraging the mediocrity of mass equality.

Both authors warn of the dangers of bright children becoming bored and frustrated in classes that are not geared towards teaching them. They may be turned off education completely, depriving Britain of the talents it needs for the future, Mr Serebriakoff says. He sees no harm in teaching widely disparate ages together, as long as mental abilities are synchronized. "Mankind has always thrived in mixed age groups in tribal situations," he says. "Cramming off is made to sound a dangerous phrase," Mr Serebriakoff says, "but why don't they think the same of people who

are 'creamed off' into football or music?"

The highly intelligent child has the potential to be as good at football as he is at physics — if he applies himself to it, the two experts insist. (But often his mind is occupied elsewhere and the child who is grappling with the theories of the universe may not find the time to ride a bicycle or try out for the football team.)

Gifted children can only be "enabled — not pushed", as Professor Radford puts it. "You can probably make an idiot out of a genius," Mr Serebriakoff says, "but you simply cannot make a genius of an idiot."

Studies of child prodigies have shown that a large proportion of them were first-born or only children — or in some other "special" position in the family, perhaps a late last child, which indicates that parental attention is probably significant. Talent does tend to run in families, although these will usually be only one prodigy, Professor Radford notes, citing the Bach family with its 60 musical members, some 20 of them eminent, but only one with the genius of Johann Sebastian. (Ruth Lawrence's younger sister Rebecca has just passed her maths A level a year early, but Miss Lawrence, a research fellow at Harvard University in the United States, had her A level at 10 and a first-class honours degree by 13.)

Attempting to breed a particularly bright child is as futile as it is foolish, Professor Radford says. "Shaw famously pointed out to a lady who wished him to father her child, thus endowing it with her beauty and his brains, that the result might be just the opposite."

Due to a phenomenon known as "regression to the mean", nature's way of dividing her gifts fairly among families means that two bright parents are capable of producing a dull child, while two with below-average IQs are perfectly capable of spawning a potential genius. (Mr Serebriakoff is working on his first novel — a "nightmare" about experiments in genetic engineering to create a super-intelligent race.)

Neither Professor Radford nor Mr Serebriakoff sees any harm in children getting their kicks from pure mathematics. Professor Radford commented in an article in *The Times* in 1988 about John Adams, the boy who passed his A levels aged nine, but who "would much rather be out playing... or watching children's programmes... than debating the theory of relativity", that "it is not really clear why happiness cannot be found in discussing the theory of relativity."

Mr Serebriakoff concedes that "some of the mathematical skills may isolate children from the world" and that a child may understand the fourth dimension while being socially inept and emotionally immature.

Both men, however, feel strongly that celebrating the differences between children is much healthier than forcing them all to conform to some theoretical "norm" and that some degree of eccentricity may be a characteristic of the exceptional in all fields.

There is no justification for a parent to push a child outside to play when he or she would rather be conversing with his computer or making up an imaginary language.

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BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Behaving badly

THE Red House, Britain's largest children's book club, has discovered that *Bad Behaviour*, a book by the child psychologist Dr John Pearce (Thorsons, £1.99) advising parents on how to deal with rudeness and swearing, destructiveness, stealing, lying and truancy, is top of the list with its 200,000 member families. Each month the club attempts to analyse social trends through the buying patterns of its members, who can choose from travel guides and activity books, parenting manuals, fantasy tales, children's literature, tapes and dictionaries. Despite being the best-seller, *Bad Behaviour* is not listed in the April catalogue, but it can still be ordered. "We like to change our selection frequently," a spokeswoman says. Details from Red House, Witney, Oxfordshire OX3 5YF.

Taking heart

Teenagers are not too young to start taking positive steps to protect their hearts, and even younger children have been found to have high cholesterol levels. "High Energy," a British Heart Foundation

newsletter for teenagers, gives information on how regular exercise makes the heart stronger, and offers a pulse test and advice on how to get the most out of exercise. Gary Lineker, a player with Tottenham Hotspur, urges children to look out for Jump Rope for Heart, which should have schools all over Britain skipping, and even pop star Jason Donovan, who claims to start most days with a jog, spreads the fitness message to teens. The leaflet is distributed free to schools, on teachers' application, and copies are available when you send a s.a.c. to: Teenage Newsletter, Distribution Department, British Heart Foundation, 102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4DH.

Lessons in life

Life Education Centres have been in existence for 10 years and their work is gaining increasing recognition. There are 85 classrooms around the world, disseminating a preventive approach intended to warn children of the dangers of drugs. Children as young as five are taught about their bodies and are motivated in a manner which "not only steers them away from drug use but also away from intolerance of others and away from child abuse", says Dr June Patterson-Brown, chief commissioner of the Girl Guides. Life Education Centres are looking for fund-raising volunteers, particularly in London. Contact the Life Education Centre's UK Foundation, PO Box 137, London N10 3JF (010 267 2516).

Victoria McKee

TOMORROW

Don't go near the water... How to survive a seaside holiday without sewage sickness: a guide to the beaches not to visit this summer

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ENVIRONMENT

Breeds that could die with a creed

Libby Henson is scarcely a political animal, but she is worried by the tide of economic revolution in Eastern Europe. Rare breeds of farm animals which have been preserved by primitive agricultural systems are in danger of being wiped out by modernization, she fears.

"Many countries still have distinct breeds fulfilling their traditional roles," she says. "As economic and political compromises are made, there is a real risk of losing them."

Ms Henson is no sentimentalist: she bristles with qualifications which make her, at the age of 32, one of our most respected authorities on rare breeds.

She is co-opted regularly to advise the United Nations and other bodies and her work takes her all over the world. Five years ago, she made the first census of rare breeds in North America and she is due to return to the United States this summer for an update, having established the American Minor Breeds Conservancy, based in North Carolina. "We identified more than 80 distinct rare breeds on the first census, many more than I expected," she says. "I believe we may still find others."

The lure of similar opportunities to comb Eastern Europe for rare breeds at once excites her but raises her apprehensions. She worries that in a stampede for change, precious rare breeds could vanish, and warns: "Once they're gone, they're gone forever."

Her fears are particularly for the future of rare breeds in Hungary — not so much because that country has been irresponsible in its approach, but because previous governments allocated large sums to the cause. "Now national conservation programmes will have to justify themselves in a market economy and may well be sacrificed," she says.

She is evangelical about the need to preserve Hungary's traditional grazing grounds — the *pusta* — home to grey steppe cattle, Racka sheep and Mangalitsa pigs. She adds: "Grasses that sustain these breeds produce exactly the right seeds for different birds, and so there is an entire chain of interdependency. Grazing is an essential part of the ecological balance."

One of Hungary's leading

The decline of communism is a threat to animals which survived only because of backward farming techniques.

Sandy Bisp reports on a British woman who is helping to find a solution

authorities on rare breeds, Professor Imra Boda, will be in Britain in June for a conference in Edinburgh on genetics. He will take the opportunity to study Ms Henson's home ground, the Cotswold Farm Park, with a view to establishing a similar scheme near Budapest.

The farm park was co-founded by Libby's father, Joe Henson, the son of the actor Leslie Henson. It is a shop window for the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, which was founded 20 years ago. The first of this year's 100,000 visitors are now able to see rare sheep breeds lambing.

The Jacob, a particular success story, its black and white spotted wool easily available at craft shops. Not long ago, however, its numbers were down to a disturbingly low level. Other rare animals include the only six-strong working team of English longhorn oxen in the country.

Ms Henson's father decided during an adolescence in London that he wanted to become a farmer and later he teamed up with a schoolfriend, John Neave, who is still his partner.

He became fascinated by rare breeds and one of his earliest successes on behalf of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, which he also helped establish, was to acquire an Orkney island as home to threatened seaweed-eating sheep.

Libby Henson, the oldest of four children, was constantly at her father's heels, and her interest in animals led her to a first degree in zoology from Oxford and a masters in animal breeding at Edinburgh.

As she pursued her studies, breeds were being snatched from the brink of extinction at the farm park near Beerton on the Water, Gloucestershire. Today, Gloucester cattle, Norfolk Horned sheep and Bagot goats are among the rarest of the 30 breeds with which it is involved.

Ms Henson knows the

harm of being too late to save a breed. The last Lincolnshire Curly Coat pigs were slaughtered in the 1970s — after the farm park was established, but before members of rare breed associations were sufficiently widespread to save them. Such events could offer lessons on how to counter similar threats in Eastern Europe, she believes.

It is likely to be in the country whose sufferings have been most manifest, Romania, where rare breeds may have their best chance of survival. "Their backward agricultural methods indicate a prevalence of old breeds," Ms Henson says.

Her concern extends to Third World projects and she has just agreed to write a manual for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in an attempt to help save working breeds.

She disabuses anyone tempted to suppose rare breeds conservation is an esoteric pursuit with little practical application. Such animals, she says, are both part of a nation's cultural heritage and "a survival package for the future."

She cites the case of the Scots Dumpy hen, whose short legs mean its eggs do not have far to drop, with a consequent lower risk of fracturing the shell and introducing infection. In an age of growing concern over salmonella, such a hen could be of particular interest to the battery industry. "We have seen rare breeds making a comeback in UK agriculture," Ms Henson says. "As we strive to feed all the people of the world without destroying our planet, we are likely to find more roles for international rare breeds."

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Out of danger: Libby Henson with a Jacob lamb, a breed rescued from possible extinction

Moscow loses green contest

After only a year, the Soviet Union's environmental award has already become a victim of its own success

A time grows short for readers to cast their votes for this year's winner in *The Times* P.M. Environmental Awards, news comes from Moscow of the demise of a similar competition set up in the Soviet Union last year in imitation of our own awards. Voting forms for the five short-listed entries in our competition were printed in our issue of April 7, and must be received by first post this Friday, April 20.

Last year, the magazine *Za Rubezhom* (Abroad) launched its own environmental award, in which the winning entries were chosen by the magazine's readers from a short-list chosen by a panel of judges.

The competition aroused great interest in the Soviet Union, where organized political activity outside the Communist Party has largely grown out of the work of green pressure-groups moved by anger against the environmental scars inflicted on their country in the name of progress. Industrial pollution and short-sighted diversion of rivers have caused ravages on a scale which dwarfs the ecological problems of most western countries.

There were 650 entries to *Za Rubezhom*'s competition last year, which was organized by its science correspondent, Vadim Goncharov. The winner was chosen by a vote in which 3,397 readers played a part, and announced in February this year. He is Dr Alexei Saleyev, who created a botanical garden of more than 1,000 varieties of medicinal plants in the tuberculosis sanatorium of which he is head in the city of Rodniki.

"But the clerical work of recording and checking so many letters was more than our staff could take on regularly," says Nina Ratianni, a member of the magazine's staff. "With regret, we had to decide that we could not repeat the competition."

The only chance for *Za*

Rubezhom's awards would be if the Soviet Ecological Fund, which donated the prizes in the competition last year, could take on the paper-work, and make the event an annual one.

All the letters and details of entries have been passed to the Ecological Fund. "The fund plans to create a data bank, so that the immense body of information can be of continuing value," Mrs Ratianni says. "The letters we received, many of them from children, were very interesting human documents. They show how many people in our country have a sense of a general danger to the environment."

There is a strong similarity between the entries in the British and Soviet competitions. "In both countries, we see finalists who have planted trees to provide a habitat for wildlife, and created ponds to control erosion and add beauty to the locality," Mrs Ratianni says.

Ecological campaigners in the Soviet Union have some advantages over their counterparts in Britain, Mrs Ratianni believes. The common ownership of land makes it easier for volunteers to make improvements over a wide area, without the expense of buying land.

But they also face obstacles, she admits. Seeds and other essential materials may be hard to obtain. This sometimes forces campaigners to improvise. For example, Mikhail Ryabinov, of Chelobskiy, in the Chuvash republic, has buried hundreds of worn-out car-tyres in the banks of the river which runs through his village, to stop floods which had carried away fertile farmland and even roads. The new river-banks are creating a new landscape, more attractive to wildlife as well as to the area's human inhabitants.

George Hill

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MEDIA

Stick or twist in a franchise game

David Mellor is booked to attend a forum tonight on "Takeovers and Quality", organized by the Campaign for Quality Television. The campaigners are having a good run; the Minister of State at the Home Office, they say, "listens". He should tonight for the exchanges will come close to the heart of the matter.

The ownership provisions for the new ITV are still far from clear. So, would-be players are confronted by what looks like a rolling game of *vingt-et-un*. At every turn they may choose to stick, twist or buy one; if they choose wrong, they may go out of business.

Thames Television will get the game off to an early start, now that Thorn-EMI and BET have decided to put their 56 per cent up for sale as soon as authorities give a go-ahead. But there is a twist: just what is on offer? Is it what it seems to be on paper, a major slice of a franchise with only 2½ years to run, or is it also some sort of pass, or buy, through the fresh franchise round that allows the prizes for 1993?

Industry-watchers give mixed advice. On the one hand, George Russell, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, in his endless search for a workable formula, seems to have won the right to offer 1993 franchises — against the run of obligatory auction — where greater superior quality can be attested. This would seem to favour existing companies with programme records of some length and distinction. Yet in how many of the 16 available franchise areas can Mr Russell favour superior quality without running counter to what is still the underlying thrust of the Bill to offer franchises by auction to the highest of those bidders who have negotiated the basic quality hurdle?

The detailed wording of the Bill when it comes back in report stage may clarify the point, but at the moment the cautious guess is that it would look more if greatly superior quality were allowed to tilt against the auction in more than a handful of cases. If so, then buying-in begins to look less attractive; better perhaps to stick, to hang back and bid later, and from a clean slate, bearing none of the industrial encumbrance that existing stations have inevitably accrued.

But this strategy, too, is not without its perils. After auction, openness to take-over is a second major new feature of the 1993 regime. Mr Russell is still pressing for a one-year moratorium on take-overs for the new appointees. One year after

the 1993 start-up, taken with an earlier year of pre-1993 warm-up and planning, would give a new franchisee time to get his house and his defences in order. But the point has yet to be formally conceded by the Government. For the moment the possibility exists that one or more of the winners could be coshed on the way back to the victory party.

This is the stage at which observers expect EC players to come to the table in force. The Bill puts no limits on EC ownership, but in the run-up to auction, the workings of the quality hurdle are likely to thin numbers. Plausibility will be at a premium. So it may be hard for Berlusconi to cut a dash in the Borders; none too easy for the Luxembourgists to make a convincing lunge at London Weekend. But in any subsequent take-over activity this trip-wire effect disappears. The market's take-over rules will take precedence over the finer points of quality hurdling.

True, the successful take-over artist will be asked to live up to the promises given by the original winner. But promises in this business are necessarily frail; remember the early days of both London Weekend and TV-am? There were promises aplenty, but the performance belied them.

In practice, pressure towards sustaining and reinforcing long-term quality in programming can only be sensibly applied where the relationship itself is long-term and uninterrupted. That is how ITV franchisees have been kept up to the mark hitherto, through the operation of a steady schoolmasterly system of reports, finger-wagging and occasional slapping of the wrist.

The new ITC regime will, no doubt, seek to build in a range of programming desiderata, but is bound to do so in mechanistic and mathematical form — so much of this, so much of that, and at such times, etc. In the new environment, however, it is hard to envisage any new company, especially one acquired by take-over, going beyond the strict letter of the contract. So what may start out as "minima" in the eyes of the ITC will end up as "maxima". The priority business of the new franchisees will surely be to maximize profits and rapidly claw back monies expended in auction, take-over or both. Within the rules of the game as at present propounded, this is a perfectly proper objective, and, presumably, what the Government intends and wants.

BROADCAST
Brian WenhamSally Brompton talks
to the man who
masterminded the
RSPCA's dog
registration campaign

A successful lobby requires a combination of sincerity, skill and a precise understanding of the workings of Parliament. So says Gavin Grant, campaign director of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who has spearheaded a highly professional campaign for the registration of dogs. The Government may be defeated on the issue.

Mr Grant has spent the last 18 months — and £500,000 in donations — mustering the full forces of the media to persuade the public and press politicians into supporting the case for registration which will once again come before Parliament — possibly next week — in the form of a retabled amendment to the Environmental Protection Bill.

The success of Mr Grant's action can be judged by the fact that, in many parts of the country, MPs now receive more letters about dog registration than they do about the poll tax.

"I think the single most important thing about lobbying is to speak from the heart," says the former Liberal candidate. "Politicians see through champagne receptions and expensive-paid trips and, anyway, they would be totally inappropriate with the kind of cause we're working for."

As well as the political insight gained as a would-be MP, Mr Grant also has the benefit of his experience with the Council for the Protection of Rural England, where he set up a marketing and communications department, and as campaign director of the Liberal Party.

"I understand the political process and how constrained MPs are by the parliamentary timetable and I think that is very important," he says. He also believes that "the people — or, in our case, the animals — you're advocating on behalf of are often your most crucial allies. The people directly involved speak with a frankness and sincerity which politicians will understand and recognize as the voice of their own constituents."

Aware of the value of impartiality, he commissioned the London School of Economics to carry out a survey into the economics of dog registration. Their independent report showed that the annual cost of stray dogs is more than £76 million compared with the £42 million necessary to establish a nationwide registration scheme with a dog warden service — a discovery



Dogged determination: campaign director Gavin Grant and his dog Pardoe

which, he says, eliminated the Government's argument that the scheme is too expensive to implement.

"Your case must be able to stand up to hostile scrutiny," he explains. "You have to understand where your opposition is going to come from and what they are going to say. Finally, you must build your allies and mobilize the people by making them aware that there is something they can do either by writing to their MP or by economical activity, such as not buying a particular kind of product."

Mr Grant's allies include an all-party group of about 300 MPs led by Dame Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth Drake, and Ann Taylor, Labour environment spokeswoman, as well as about 40 organizations, including the Police Federation, the National Farmers' Union, the British Veterinary Association, the Institution of Environmental Health Officers, the

Association of District Councils and Child Care Concern. Mr Grant has been bombarding them with briefing papers and diplomatically worded suggestions about how to further their joint cause.

Among the most committed is the Association of District Councils, whose members bear the brunt of dog misdemeanours ranging from strays and fouling to attacks. "Everyone expects the local authority to do something about it," says Brian Etheridge, the association's assistant secretary. "But it is very, very difficult for us to take action against irresponsible dog owners if we can't identify them."

Mr Grant, aged 34, who is married to a vet, joined the RSPCA in the autumn of 1988, five months after the Government abolished dog licences and rejected a House of Lords amendment to introduce a dog registration scheme. Faced with the

task of mounting a campaign, he felt that the society "lacked the cutting edge in terms of bought media capabilities".

He employed the advertising agency Abbott Mead Vickers (AMV) to handle the RSPCA account on the basis of the dog registration campaign. "It was clear that what we had to do was conjure the starkest, strongest image we could possibly find to bring home to people the message," he says.

The message was that the RSPCA kills more than 1,000 stray dogs a day. The stark image chosen to depict it was the grisly black-and-white photograph of a mountain of dead dogs with the caption: While the Government looks the other way, another 350,000 dogs look like this.

The award-winning series of posters acted as "the storm troops of the campaign", according to AMV chairman and creative director, David Abbott, who wrote much of the copy.

With an advertising budget of £150,000 ("absolute peanuts", Mr Grant says), Mr Abbott was aware that the campaign "was not going to be a slow burn". He says: "We had to do something that would grab people's attention quite quickly and also dramatize the problem."

When the Kennel Club condemned the posters as "offensive", and banned them and Mr Grant from Crufts, the resulting publicity was a bonus to the campaigners, who rented the hoarding opposite the dog show to display the dead dog mountain montage.

About 400,000 mailshots encouraged supporters to lobby their MPs and regular market research reassured the lobbyists they were going about it the right way. "I was aware we were on dangerous ground because it is a horrific picture," Mr Grant admits. "But I decided not to make any apologies for it."

"Everyone felt we were right to use hard-hitting tactics. Forty-eight per cent felt more positive towards us because of the method we were using. Fifty per cent said the RSPCA had been too quiet in the past."

After the televising of a BBC 2 documentary, *A Shabby Dog Story*, which coincided with the final mail shot, 12,000 people telephoned within 24 hours to support the campaign.

According to Dame Janet, who has been fighting to get dog registration on the statute books for the past 15 years, the controversial campaign is justified by the results. "I know there is a minority which does not like the style but I think it is perfectly permissible to remind people of what they do not want to be reminded of," she says.

"We have tried sensible, moderate ways of bringing people together and we've not been listened to. Therefore, I think, it's legitimate to use shock tactics."

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MEDIA

My BBC battles, by the Duke

Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, tells Richard Evans that he has turned the ailing corporation into a fighting force

As any military commander will confirm, if the attitude of the troops is correct and they are carrying out the right manoeuvres properly, the enemy

Marmaduke Hussey, who survived a bullet in the spine at Anzio in 1944 on his way to becoming chairman of the BBC, now believes after three and a half years of skirmishing and reorganisation that his 28,000-strong corps is in the right mood to advance in the multi-channel broadcasting environment of the 1990s.

This does not mean that the radical changes he has overseen are complete, or that his team will survive intact. Far from it; there will be many more changes and casualties in the forthcoming months and years. But he is convinced the BBC has turned the corner since the dark and dismal days at the end of 1986 when he took charge of a corporation

under siege, and he produces evidence gleaned from his front-line forces to justify the confidence. Like any good officer, he cuts from time to time with selected employees in the infamous canteens at Broadcasting House and Television Centre in an attempt to find out what his staff are thinking. "I did it yesterday, as a matter of fact, and a very bright lot of people there, and this is by no means the first time it has happened. The message I got is 'We know the BBC has got to change. We see now that the governors and the management are changing the BBC - and thank heavens for it.' That view permeates right through the whole

organization. People realize things are changing."

Putting aside his genuine exuberance for a moment, has he lost sight of the scale of problems facing the BBC? Less than a year ago it was engulfed in a bitter dispute which highlighted the low pay of many staff. More money is needed to reward employees and to finance programmes, whose costs rise faster than inflation. Yet funding is, at best, static in real terms.

From next April the licence fee, which will bring in around £1,200 million this year, will in theory no longer be automatically indexed. The BBC's Charter has to be renegotiated in 1996 and the independent sector is expected to make 25 per cent of BBC programmes within the next three years. Perhaps

'We all know the challenges we face and a great deal is going on to deal with it'

the daily physical pain endured since the war, the harrowing years spent in the newspaper industry and his own back-ground, help Mr Hussey put the BBC difficulties into perspective. Educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Oxford, he is married to Lady Susan Hussey, a lady-in-waiting to the Queen. Although some BBC staff regard the tall, imposing figure as an out-of-touch relic unsuited to the highly competitive television era, many acknowledge his qualities. He is the Willie Whitely of the BBC, whose sometimes less than spot-on public performances, such as at this year's *See For Yourself* exercise, make a razor-sharp brain and shrewd political antennae.

Compared with the industrial strife he encountered at Associated Newspapers and Times Newspapers, culminating in the year-long shutdown in 1979, the BBC



BBC figure-heads: Marmaduke Hussey with a host of Lord Reith, the founding father of the BBC. "People realize things are changing"

problems must seem relatively minor. But many difficulties still have to be overcome.

"I would like to look at it in a slightly different way. Look how the BBC has changed in the last three and a half years. I think it is a far more confident BBC now. If we start at the top, the governors and the board of management work together, they plan together a strategy as to how we approach various problems we have."

"We have changed the whole ethos and attitude of the BBC. When I joined it was a very Civil Service, academic-type ethos, which is not really surprising because it was largely run on Civil Service lines and, in many ways, staffed from academic homes."

"It was a government-protected monopoly and part of a government-protected monopoly for the first 60 years of its existence. Then it quite suddenly found itself slap in the middle of a multinational competitive industry - and that was a hell of a culture shock."

"So we had to make changes. We have made changes, and the first

change is in attitude. Of course, there have been managerial changes. All the top jobs at the BBC have changed over the past three and a half years. John Tusa [head of the World Service] is the only person with the same job. People are much younger."

"I think the BBC is now aware of the problems it faces. I remember when I was first here asking what would happen when all the new channels arrived. A senior BBC man told me: 'Don't worry about that, chairman. It won't happen.'"

"The BBC is very different now. We all know the challenges we face and a great deal is going on to deal with it." Increased public accountability, in the shape of the *See For Yourself* exercise, "dramatic" changes to news and current affairs, which have bolstered audiences significantly, and "tremendous" changes in BBC regions are rattled off as examples of the seismic alterations.

The Phillips committee set up to find more money for staff following last year's strike, and a review of the pay system and grading by

Pent Marwick, have attempted to tackle grievances. Economics, savings and putting services out to tender have all been recommended.

Mr Hussey insists the wide range of programming will not be curtailed. "In my view the five national radio channels will continue, and I have yet to see any solid alternative to the BBC local radio chain. So I think the range will continue as it is."

Which leaves jobs. Six months ago *The Times* predicted that up to a quarter of the workforce would be shed during the early 1990s. In recent days a broadcasting union leader has estimated the loss of between 6,000 and 9,000 jobs. Mr Hussey responds: "Broadcasting is in the greatest boom time in its history. Radio stations are jumping up all round the country, satellites are whizzing up into the sky. There are more job opportunities for people in radio and television than ever before."

"These people, if they leave us, are leaving at a time when there are more broadcasting jobs going

round, and it should not be so difficult. I would be totally wrong to give you any forecast of how the BBC will be reduced or by how many, because we simply have not got to that stage yet."

But job reductions will provide the extra funding necessary for programmes? "Yes - and for those areas where we know we are paying too little. I have never concealed my view that in some areas the BBC employs far too many people at far too low rates, particularly in the ancillary areas."

Looking to post 1996, he insists the licence fee, rather than advertising or subscription, should remain the BBC's source of funding. It enables the corporation to take risks, such as backing programmes like *The Black Adder* and *Yes Minister* which, he points out, were initially failures.

"In the end the licence fee issue will be resolved by whether we retain what we have at the moment, which is the support, affection and admiration of audiences. If we lose that, we will lose the licence fee."

Passion and protest

How the Mandela concert rates in complaints league

Nelson Mandela reached Wembley stadium before Manchester United, but he was no match for the Red Devils in the latest round of the BBC "unpopularity stakes" (Richard Evans writes).

Amid the hullabaloo over the Easter Monday concert, two facts are worth considering. By yesterday morning, the BBC had received about 300 telephone calls from viewers, most of them complaints. Some criticized the five hours of live television devoted to the event; others pointed to a propaganda "coup" for the African National Congress. Others were plain racist.

Last Wednesday, the BBC devoted about two and a half hours to the Manchester United versus Oldham FA Cup semi-final replay. More than 600 people telephoned with complaints.

"The scheduling of sport incites considerable passion. It always outpoints politics, sex, bad language... anything you like," a BBC spokesman said yesterday.

Despite the criticism, the BBC apparently has no regrets about its decision to televise the concert, or its coverage.

"When we heard that a concert of this scale was being put together with a promised bill of international artists right across the musical spectrum, plus the fact that Mandela was to make his first utterances in Britain after 27 years in jail, it seemed to us that this was an occasion which a substantial number of our viewers would wish us to reflect and be present at," the spokesman said.

"If you ask us after the dust has settled, 'was it the right decision we would have to stick by it.'"

If the BBC had decided not to go for the concert, rival broadcasters would have stepped in. A Channel 4 spokesman said: "If we had been offered it, we would have considered it on its merits. On the evidence of what we saw on the BBC we would have been happy to play it."

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RECEPTION SELECTION

Continued from page 37

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06

Bush fails to close the gap on environment

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

SIGNIFICANT differences between the United States and European countries about how to tackle the greenhouse effect emerged again yesterday when President Bush opened a conference here on changes in the global climate.

The continuing emphasis laid by his Administration on additional study of the problem rather than on measures to tackle it was implicitly rejected in a statement by the European Community, and openly criticized by its representatives and American environmentalists.

"Gaps in knowledge must not be used as an excuse for worldwide inaction," Dr Klaus Töpfer, the West German Environment Minister, said in calling for the 17-nation, two-day conference to debate policy measures, rather than simply concerning itself, as planned, with research.

For his opening speech, in which he offered no new initiatives for combating the greenhouse effect, Mr Bush received only moderate applause. Later he was taken to task by delegates about the absence from the conference agenda of US policies responding to the crisis.

"We want to discuss policy," said Mr P. Vellinga, a senior member of the Dutch delegation, adding: "It's a question of political will to restructure your (US) economy to the benefit of preserving our culture another two or three centuries, and not another 50 years. We are worried the political will is not there, where it is there in European countries."

Yesterday's proceedings highlighted the gap between European and American attitudes which first emerged last November at a conference on climate change at Noordwijk in The Netherlands.

There, the Community, including Britain, committed itself to stabilizing emissions of "greenhouse gases" by the year 2000. The US declined to do so and, with the Soviet Union and Japan, agreed only to a statement saying that greenhouse gases should be stabilized "as soon as possible".

In his speech yesterday Mr Bush said: "What we need are facts, the stuff that science is made of." What was required, he added, was "a better understanding of the basic processes at work in our whole world, better earth-system models that enable us to calculate the complex interaction between man and our environment".

Only then could answers be developed.

The President acknowledged the debate raging between the environmentalists and those who argue that the evidence is insufficient to justify the huge cost of reducing the greenhouse gases, but argued that economic and environmental welfare were two sides of the same coin.

"There's no better ally in the service of our environment than strong economies, economies that make possible increased efficiencies, that enable us to make environmental gains, economies that can generate new technologies that help us arrest and reverse the damage done to our environment, economies that allow us to make vital investments in our common future," Mr Bush said.

His speech bore all the hallmarks of having been written by Mr John Sununu, the White House Chief of Staff, who argues that the inconclusive evidence about global warming does not yet justify the enormous economic consequences of taking remedial action.

Mr Sununu's principal opponent in the Administration is Mr William Reilly, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, who has been regularly rebuffed in trying to commit America to specific targets for reducing greenhouse gases.

Green handwagon, page 9



In the covers: A well-prepared enthusiast following the opening day's cricket in a chill wind at Lord's yesterday. Only a handful of spectators were at the game's headquarters to see MCC play Worcester. Most wore overcoats and scarves, several warmed themselves with tea from flasks and a few found the game so tedious that they fell asleep. The match was interrupted by rain, a sure sign that the season was underway.

Kinnock hails US move and proposes July visit

Continued from page 1

was normal practice for the President to meet Opposition leaders.

Mr Bush had met Mr Kinnock at a Downing Street dinner last June and said he was looking forward to meeting him in Washington. Mr Kinnock's aides had then tried to fix a date for last December, but that had proved impossible because of the Malta summit and the holiday season.

Although July appears to be the preferred date, Mr Bush has to attend the world economic summit in Houston towards the middle of that month and there are rumours of a possible Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) summit which could also get in the way.

As Mr Kinnock yesterday welcomed President Bush's remarks that the special relationship between Britain and America would continue under a Labour government, it was disclosed that high-level dip-

lomatic contacts between the Labour leadership and the Administration have increased since Mr Bush took over 16 months ago.

American diplomats said yesterday that the hostility which characterized the relationship between Labour and the Reagan Administration was at an end.

United States Embassy officials in London, however, maintained that the diplomatic treatment currently being accorded to Labour was "normal".

Last October, Mr Catto made a private visit to Labour Party headquarters at Walworth Road in south London for talks with Mr Larry Whitty, the party's general secretary, and other senior members of the party staff, and in February he went to the Commons to meet Labour's backbench foreign affairs committee.

Mr and Mrs Kinnock have also been entertained at Mr Catto's London residence. There have also

been the usual contacts between shadow ministers, notably Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, and Mr John Smith, the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was yesterday continuing his visit to the United States, and their opposite numbers in the Administration.

American diplomats said that a Labour government would not have been welcomed by the Reagan Administration, mainly because of the big doubts at that time over Labour's defence posture. "The Bush Administration did not come in with this negative ideological baggage about Labour," one said.

Labour politicians were pleased yesterday by Mr Bush's expression of confidence, in an interview with *The Times*, that good relations between the US and Britain would continue under a future Labour government.

Asked about President Reagan's cool reception for Mr Kinnock in

the past, Mr Bush said that if "the Opposition leaders would come here, we would see them: that's the way it ought to be."

The Labour leader is planning to visit both Moscow and Washington before the next general election. He had been due to go to the Soviet capital last January but the visit was called off because of President Gorbachev's internal difficulties.

Mr Kinnock said of Mr Bush yesterday: "I think the political situation in Britain and the strong prospect of a Labour government will not have escaped the President's notice. Everyone else in the world seems to have noticed it."

"I think it has been clear for some time to us that there is a natural relationship between the United States and Britain as we have a natural relationship with the rest of Nato and the European Community," he said.

"I look forward to that continuing to the mutual benefit of the world.

There is a natural relationship with a good deal in common between two well-established and stable democracies. Those who say there is a dilemma about whether we should look across the Channel to Europe or across the Atlantic to the United States are not being realistic.

"Our place is in the whole world and the United States is a big partner in that world."

Mr Denis Healey, the former Labour minister, said there was now a convergence of views between the Labour Party and the Bush Administration. He said on the BBC radio: "Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan had a very odd personal relationship. He accepted almost anything she said. But she gets on badly with Bush, who represents the sort of upper-class wet she most dislikes in Britain."

Mr Healey said that the Opposition and the American Administration now saw eye-to-eye on many external and defence issues.

Leading article, page 13

Risks grow for prison rioters

By Ronald Faux and Quentin Cowdy

THE remaining seven inmates in Strangeways prison were told yesterday that they faced a serious health risk because of conditions inside the jail.

The Home Office, meanwhile, says that it is increasingly confident that no one has been killed in the rioting.

It said: "We have no evidence to support any claims about dead bodies, despite initial media reports that up to 20 people had been killed."

It is understood that the Government, while dismayed that the siege has gone on for so long, remains convinced about the danger of trying to end the protest by force.

"No one likes pictures on the television every night of prisoners crawling over the roof of Strangeways but the use of force to end it abruptly could produce an even less pleasant news item," one senior Home Office source said.

Meanwhile, one of the three inmates taken to hospital on Sunday suffering from gastric disorders was in a serious condition in North Manchester General hospital yesterday.

Mr Ian Lockwood, governor of Haverigg Prison in Cumbria, who is involved in the operation to end the siege, said that the precise nature of the illness suffered by the three was still unknown.

He said, however: "The governor remains gravely concerned at the risk to health of the inmates because of the dangerously insanitary conditions which they have created for themselves."

Fresh water has been cut off to the upper floors of the prison held by the rioters. Toilets no longer work and cells are awash with water used to douse fires started by the inmates.

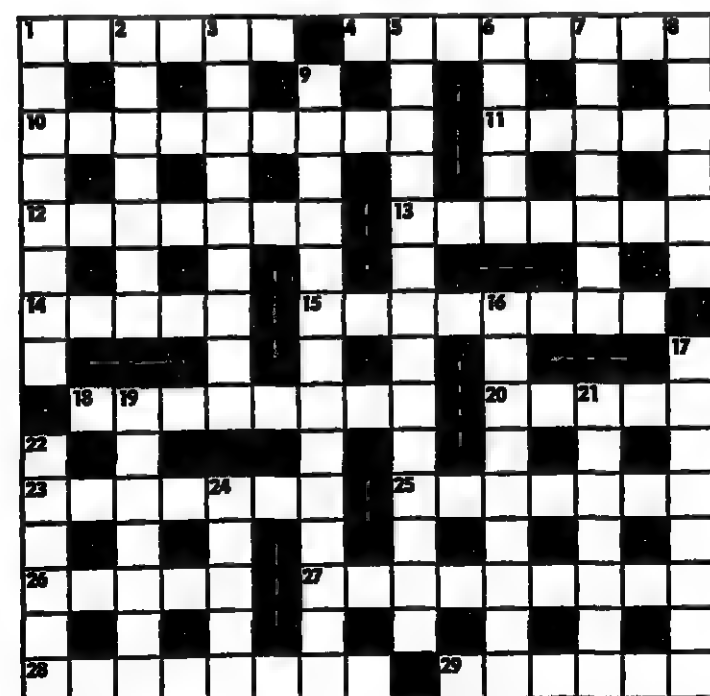
Mr Lockwood said that the Victorian prison had a problem with rats which had been made worse by structural damage to the building and the destruction of the kitchen.

With the siege now in its third week, the strategy of patient negotiation and pressure began at the outset by Mr Brendan O'Neil, the governor, and supported by the Home Office, continues.

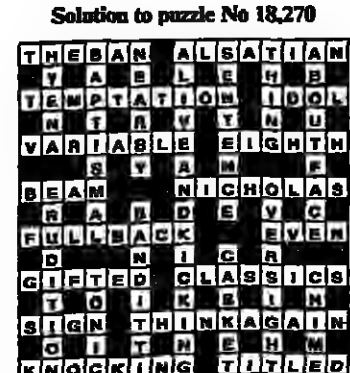
The latest visible form of pressure from prison staff early yesterday morning was to throw fire crackers into the prison buildings which, with klaxons blaring and much banging of riot shields, was meant to rob the prisoners of any rest and drive them to surrender.

After an earlier breakdown in negotiations, "informal contacts" were re-established with some of the inmates yesterday.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,271



- ACROSS**
- Writer's quarters containing a small bed (6).
 - Investigate till it's time to leave (5-3).
 - Manoeuvre rope into a coil (9).
 - Heave unfortunate wife out (5).
 - Being extravagant with colour in gaudy, initially (7).
 - Proclaim chief piece of baggage missing (7).
 - Find equality in love with a knight (5).
 - Romantic inclination after 21 (8).
 - A lot to say, but not much to eat (3).
 - Listen to the band in distress (5).
 - Fruit juice made into a jelly containing meat perhaps (7).
 - Fruit the family grill as a starter (7).
- DOWN**
- Drink and quickly grow bigger (8).
 - Animal, headless ox, covered by boulder (7).
 - To produce something edible, country needs teachers (6-3).
 - Vandal races man against mule, for a game (4,3,7).
 - A hundred and four characters, roughly, in this place-name (5).
 - Several days' work for widespread, powerful organization (7).
 - Army attacked one island (6).
 - Right map fliers used wrongly - they landed in Massachusetts (7,7).
 - Cutter cut round bristle on man's face (4-3).
 - In pain? Diagnose disorder (8).
 - Finished drink - that's a bit of coincidence (7).
 - Line put in, adding colour to clue (7).
 - Out of true, like a trainee worker (6).
 - Indispensable cove laid up, we hear (5).



This puzzle was completed within 30 minutes by 39 per cent of the competitors at the 1990 Glasgow regional final of The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championships.

Crossword, page 22.

WEATHER

Northern Ireland and western Scotland will have some rain but turn clearer by evening. The rain will spread to the rest of Scotland during the afternoon. Rain will reach western England and Wales by late morning and central parts by evening. Eastern England will have some sunshine but turn cloudy with rain by evening. Temperatures near normal. Outlook: Unsettled, becoming brighter away from south-east.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	17-23	S	10-80	
Amman	19-28	S	10-80	
Athens	25-27	S	10-80	
Bombay	28-32	S	10-80	
Buenos Aires	18-24	S	10-80	
Cairo	27-31	S	10-80	
Calcutta	27-31	S	10-80	
Colon	27-31	S	10-80	
Hong Kong	27-31	S	10-80	
London	10-15	S	10-80	
Madras	27-31	S	10-80	
Manila	27-31	S	10-80	
Mumbai	27-31	S	10-80	
Paris	10-15	S	10-80	
Rangoon	27-31	S	10-80	
Seoul	10-15	S	10-80	
Singapore	27-31	S	10-80	
Taipei	10-15	S	10-80	
Tokyo	10-15	S	10-80	
Yokohama	10-15	S	10-80	

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Cardiff	10-15	S	10-80	
Edinburgh	10-15	S	10-80	
Glasgow	10-15	S	10-80	
London	10-15	S	10-80	
Manchester	10-15	S	10-80	
Newcastle	10-15	S	10-80	
Nottingham	10-15	S	10-80	
Sheffield	10-15	S	10-80	
Southampton	10-15	S	10-80	
Stirling	10-15	S	10-80	
Wolverhampton	10-15	S	10-80	

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 13C (55F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Wind: 10-15 mph. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.07 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.8 hr. Bar: main sea level, 9.9 in. 1015.0 mbars, falling. 1,000 mbars = 29.92 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Chichester-on-Sea, 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Orkney, Shetland, 0.59 in. Sunshine: Nottingham, 12.0 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Wind: 10-15 mph. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.09 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.1 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Wind: 10-15 mph. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.25 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.1 hr.

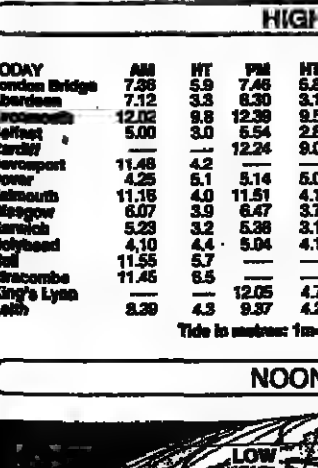
AM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

City	Lighting-up time
London	6.02 pm to 5.57 am
Edinburgh	6.25 pm to 6.58 am
Manchester	6.15 pm to 6.01 am
Perthshire	6.20 pm to 6.01 am

PM



YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	9-14	S	10-80	
Birmingham	9-14	S	10-80	
Blackpool	9-14	S	10-80	
Bristol	9-14	S	10-80	
Cardiff	9-14	S	10-80	
Edinburgh	9-14	S	10-80	
Glasgow	9-14	S	10-80	

HIGH TIDES

City	High tide
London Bridge	7.25
Aberdeen	7.12
Amman	7.12
Belfast	7.00
Cardiff	7.00
Edinburgh	7.00
Glasgow	7.00
London	7.00
Manchester	7.00
Newcastle	7.00
Nottingham	7.00
Sheffield	7.00
Southampton	7.00
Stirling	7.00
Wolverhampton	7.00

NOON TODAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	11-16	S	10-80	
Birmingham	11-16	S	10-80	
Blackpool	11-16	S	10-80	
Bristol	11-16	S	10-80	
Cardiff	11-16	S	10-80	
Edinburgh	11-16	S	10-80	
Glasgow	11-16	S	10-80	

Information supplied by Met Office

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مكتبة الأمل

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bowater Industries aims to cancel shares

BOWATER Industries, the packaging and printing group, plans to redeem and cancel its 4.35 per cent preference shares, change its name, and seek authority to buy in its ordinary shares in the market. The group wants to drop "Industries" from its name, and is seeking shareholders' permission to be able to buy up to 5 per cent of its issued share capital should market conditions dictate.

Bowater also wants to redeem its 4.35 per cent preference share capital by offering holders 96p cash a preference share. This would cost £7.09 million. Bowater says the preference offer is 81.1 per cent above the middle market price of 53p on April 9, and that the shares are expensive to administer and impose inflexible requirements on the company.

Buy for Brent Chemicals Triefus profit up by 60%

BRENT Chemicals International has bought Janssen Hasencloer, a private West German company, for £1.8 million cash. Janssen makes and markets water and solvent-based laminating adhesives and ultraviolet varnishes used in the printing and packaging industries. Its pre-tax profits, after adjusting for non-recurring directors' fees, were £430,000 for the year ending last June.

Thompson doubles

THOMPSON Clive Investments, which provides venture capital for unlisted companies, more than doubled pre-tax profits, from £224,000 to £454,000, in 1989. Earnings per share trebled from 0.9p to 2.7p and there is a dividend of 2p (nil). The fully diluted net asset value rose by 8.2 per cent to 177.1p a share.

Gross revenue advanced by 41.6 per cent to £1.18 million. TCI said that £734,000 had been invested in nine companies since the year-end. It realized a gain of £130,000 from last month's sale of its investment in Emerald City Software.

Profits rise at Havelock

HAVELOCK Europe, the Scottish shop-fitting group, made profits before tax and exceptional items for the 36 weeks to last December of £312,000 (£252,000 for the 52 weeks to April, 1989). Turnover was £32.8 million (£49.6 million). Earnings per share rose to 1.6p (1.4p) and the final dividend of 2.5p is equivalent to last year's total of 3.6p.

Yale and Valor sale

YALE and Valor, the security to heating appliances group, has sold its catering equipment division to management for £8.5 million. The buyout, led by Mr Robin Clark, the division's managing director, includes Moorwood Vulcan, Jacksons, Oliver Toms and Sadia Refrigeration, all of which were profitable and, combined, contributed about £22 million to group turnover.

Mr Tony Marston, Yale and Valor's finance director, said the proceeds from the disposal would initially be used to reduce interest costs and bring down gearing.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings April 17 Last Dealings May 6 Last Declaration July 18 For Settlement July 30
Call options were taken out on 17/4/90. Underlying: British Mining, PFI, Gasco Resources, Heat, PFI, Parfitt, PFI & Cals-Turner.

TEMPUS

McKechnie upholds tradition



Battening down the hatches: Jim Butler, chairman of McKechnie, flanked by Michael Ost, chief executive, (left) and Stuart Moberley, finance director

McKECHNIE is proud to be one of the few engineering groups which managed to maintain dividends throughout the last recession in 1981 and 1982. That policy continues as light engineering runs into heavy weather again, with the interim dividend held at 5p despite pre-tax profits falling from £17.3 million to £12.7 million in the six months to end-January.

The group is perhaps even more exposed than the average metal-basher to the economic cycle because of the proportion of its metal and plastic products that find their way into the building and automotive industries.

Its own estimates suggest an operating profit shortfall in the half year of between £5 million and £6 million. Some £2 million to £2.5 million of this comes from customer destocking, mainly in Britain - British Telecom, one of McKechnie's biggest customers for plastic products, is trying to shorten its stockholding from six to two months.

Another £500,000 apiece can be blamed on McKechnie's own decision to destock and on redundancy and reorganization costs. A rag-bag of other factors, including a New Zealand dock strike and a slowdown in the US and South Africa, accounted for another £2 million to £2.5 million in lost profits.

The near-recession for which McKechnie is battening down the hatches - 10 per cent of the workforce gone and perhaps as much as 5 per cent still to go - has its advantages, however, in the form of "fire sale" acquisitions of struggling small companies.

But the group's cautious approach to the future is exemplified by its decision to halve current-year capital spending to about £10 million, giving little hope of earnings growth in the short-term even though seasonal factors will boost second-half profits.

McKechnie will probably make about £30 million pre-tax this year, putting the shares on a multiple of more than nine times, a little dear given the low quality of earnings compared with elsewhere in the sector. Recently-revised bid talk looks unlikely, given the perceived strength of the management.

EIS Group

EIS, the specialist engineering group, is a market paradox. Profits and dividends have risen for 19 years on the trot - yet since January the share price has done nothing but slide.

The twentieth year of profits and dividend growth looms ahead, yet, relative to the market, the shares are at their lowest in five years.

The company made its first serious overseas venture in 1984, but now has a family of 19 overseas subsidiaries, responsible for 48 per cent of

total earnings - so there is little fear of cold economic British winds holding EIS back.

EIS made pre-tax profits of £11.9 million in 1989, a 24.7 per cent increase, which, despite the dilution of the April rights issue, still sees net earnings rise by 12 per cent to 27.6p a share. The final dividend of 7.7p (6.9p), payable on July 6, makes 10.45p (9.35p).

The profits advance was once again due to a mixture of organic and acquired growth and was helped by a further improvement in the fluid seals and power transmission couplings division and a strong performance by process equipment.

Both advances were sufficient to offset a fairly flat year for aircraft and precision engineering.

So far in 1990, profits are ahead of the same period a year ago and the strong marketing and product links

with the Soviet Union in particular and the Eastern bloc in general are increasingly coming into their own.

Meanwhile, the balance sheet remains strong with net cash at the year-end of £12.5 million clearly poised for further acquisitions - preferably abroad, but also at home should the right opportunity arise.

If this is to be the twentieth year of growth, then pre-tax profits of about £14 million should be possible, to put the shares, at 285p, on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 9.2, backed by an historic yield of 4.9 per cent. EIS will not always be so cheap.

Michael Peters

Is the decade of design over? To look at the share price of Michael Peters, the USM design and communications group, it would appear that the design bonanza which charac-

terized the past 10 years has ground to a halt.

The shares have tumbled from more than 100p to just 18p and the business is looking as sick as some of its old retail clients. The group made a pre-tax loss of £2.94 million in the six months to December compared with profits of £1.07 million.

Turnover rose from £18 million to £23.1 million but the business made an operating loss of £1.55 million.

Exceptional reorganization costs swallowed another £639,000 and the interest charge was £749,000, up from £167,000.

The loss per share was 16p compared with earnings of 5.1p. There is no interim dividend. Borrowings are topping £9 million and the group is looking for new equity finance to help reduce these.

But Michael Peters believes it has taken the right steps to get the business back into shape.

Spectrum Communications, which stages promotional events and conferences, is being sold to its management for £3.7 million and the company is in negotiations about the sale of HTI, the US business which provides architectural and design services to North American department stores and which is making sizeable losses.

HTI and Spectrum were both acquired in 1988 for an initial £7.6 million, and while the Spectrum sale looks a reasonable one and will reduce debts by about £2.3 million, it is unlikely that the group will achieve the \$10 million it paid for HTI.

Warburton is conservatively estimating that the group will make a loss of between £3.5 million and £4 million for the year.

The shares may have reached rock bottom but, until the sale of HTI is finalized and the financial situation is clarified, they should be avoided.

CU forms an alliance with Japanese insurer

By Neil Bennett

TOKIO Fire and Marine, Japan's largest non-life insurer, has taken a 3 per cent stake in Commercial Union, the British insurance group, as part of an alliance between the companies.

Tokio recently bought 12.3 million shares in CU, which in turn has bought 3.4 million shares in Tokio, less than 1 per cent of the capital. The alliance, announced at CU's annual meeting, will allow the

two to swap risk information and training facilities.

Mr Peter Foster, CU's group financial controller, said neither side was planning to increase its stake. The agreement "cements the relationship we have had with Tokio for a long time", he said.

CU hopes to use Tokio's risk information to expand in the Far East, which in 1989 produced £20 million in premium income.

Eagle Trust sells firms in £1 deals

By Martin Waller

EAGLE Trust, the mini-conglomerate which is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, has made further disposals as part of the tidying-up now taking place under the chairman, Mr David James.

It has sold Unifite and KSD, which make and distribute kitchen and bathroom furniture, to three former directors for a nominal sum of £1 in each case.

It is retaining property worth £1.4 million, against which it has written off £2.53 million of the companies' debts to Eagle Trust.

The businesses being sold, as currently structured, lost £330,000 in 1989 and are forecast to lose another £249,000 this year.

The businesses had in aggregate a deficiency of assets of £706,000.

Borland bounces back to \$15m

By Philip Pangalos

BORLAND International, the computer software company which is based in California but quoted on the USM, reported pre-tax profits of \$15.5 million for the year to end-March, compared with a loss of \$2.77 million.

The company benefited from extensive restructuring - which led to reduced costs - and a good second half, which was boosted by strong performances from Quattro Pro, Borland's new spreadsheet package, and Paradox, which is the database management programme.

Earnings per share jumped to 99.9 cents, while fully-diluted earnings stood at 94 cents, compared with a loss of 9.4 cents.

Once again, there is no dividend. Revenues climbed by 25 per cent to \$113.3 million, with the US accounting for about 75 per cent. The

cost of revenues was cut by 9 per cent to \$24.7 million. There was an interest credit of \$528,000, compared with a charge of \$845,000 last time.

Mr Philippe Kahn, the chairman, attributed the recovery to the strong demand for Quattro Pro, which began shipping in the third quarter.

He said that fourth-quarter revenues benefited from domestic sales to Lotus 1-2-3 users who upgraded to the more powerful, graphics-oriented Quattro Pro - which has now been translated into foreign languages.

Mr Kahn also said that Paradox sales in the final quarter were the highest since the current version began shipping about a year ago.

Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of \$25 million for the current year. The shares eased by 8p to 985p on the news.

Airbus Industrie 'in profit by 1993'

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

THE European aircraft-making consortium, Airbus Industrie, should be making a profit by 1993 - two years earlier than predicted, according to its managing director, Mr Jean Pierson.

Mr Pierson told the Aviation Club in London that he had predicted the consortium, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, would be in profit by 1995.

"Well, I was wrong" he said. "We will be profitable before then."

"When in 1993 the annual output of Airbus Industrie exceeds 200 aircraft, that is a turnover in excess of \$12 billion a year - over a billion dollars a month - we are going to become a profitable enterprise. Britain, through BAe will do very well indeed."

Airbus has been criticized by American trade officials and the rival manufacturers Boeing and McDonnell Douglas for allegedly hiding the true profit and loss of the company and of accepting big subsidies from governments. Talks aimed at resolving the dispute between them are continuing with little sign of a conclusion acceptable to both sides.

Mr Pierson yesterday, however, put forward a strong defence of the consortium. The aircraft manufacturing industry, he said, is a very long-term business activity.

"It is capital intensive and massive up-front investment is required to develop, as we have done, a complete family of aircraft," he said.

"It will have taken us, as it has Boeing, just under 20 years to offer aircraft that cover the full range of airline needs. The four partners in Airbus Industrie have now made this massive investment. The returns, and they will be rich indeed, lie ahead of them."

He admitted that during the build up the consortium was not making a profit. They were, however, creating wealth, he said.

"Profits are now within reach. Profits to repay all the efforts that have gone in over those 20 years."

Airbus now has a backlog of 812 aircraft firmly ordered, which represents more than five years of work.

"The A312 which was launched only last November has become a major sales success already," Mr Pierson said. "This programme, I can assure you, is funded entirely by the Airbus Industrie partnership. We have approached the financial markets to raise money for this programme and the response has been overwhelming."

Another new aircraft in the "family" of jets being produced at Toulouse, the A330, will have Rolls-Royce engines, which will mean that the British content will rise to 55 per cent.

"At \$94 million an aircraft we foresee a great many of them being sold and that's a lot of good news for the British Exchequer," Mr Pierson said.

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EQUITIES	
ABT Leisure (125p)	118
ADG Group (14p)	181
Alexis New Euro (100p)	203
Angos PFI	203
Beta Global Emarg (100p)	86
Birmingham NW	70
Cable Inc	220
Chertwell	300
Citybond	215
Courtside Tardies	258
Dakota GP NW	44
EuroMoney	343
FAC German	131
Fastforward	120
First Ireland (100p)	80
Garmore Emarg Pacific	54
German IT	91
Goldsamith	128
Henderson Highland (100p)	82
Midland Radio	103
Novell (100p)	141
Novell (100p)	101
CS Hedge	108
Slam Select	89
Sutton Water	137
TV High Inc (200p)	105
Torley & Carole (150p)	151
Venturi Int Tet	9
Walsare Brew (70p)	68

RIGHTS ISSUES	
Alphamatic N/P	4
Carm Energy N/P	40
Cranham N/P	75
Kingsgrange N/P	1
March GP N/P	1
Nestor-SNA N/P	8
Pickwick N/P	28
Simon Eng N/P	70
Templeton Egg N/P	75

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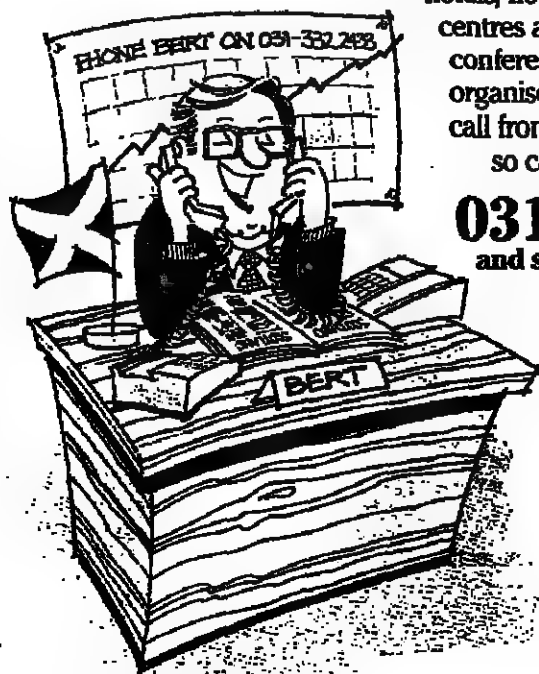
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Managers buy Del Monte division in \$375m deal

By Melinda Wittstock

DEL MONTE Corporation, the processed food and canned fruit group bought out from RJR Nabisco last January for \$1.48 billion, is selling its European division in a \$375-million deal backed by Charterhouse, the investment bank.

The new company, Del Monte Foods International, will hold the exclusive licence to use the Del Monte brand name on any of its processed foods in Western and Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The rights to the Del Monte name for fresh produce, however, are held by Polly Peck International, which acquired the fresh fruit operations for \$875 million last September from RJR Nabisco, which was taken private last year in the world's biggest leveraged buyout at the height of the junk bond craze.

Finance for the latest deal, which took just three months to arrange despite turbulence in the debt market, is comprised of \$136 million worth of equity, \$80 million of mezzanine finance and \$212.6 million of senior debt, which includes acquisition debt as well as working capital. The equity element, representing

about one-third of the buyout funds, has been jointly underwritten by the £200 million Second Charterhouse Buyout Fund, the £120 million Charterhouse European Partners and the \$256 million US-based Charterhouse Equity Partners. The debt has been arranged by Charterhouse Bank and has been fully underwritten by a syndicate of international banks, including NatWest, Union Bank of Switzerland, the Nippon Bank and Bank of America.

Mr Leon Allen, president and chief executive of Del Monte Foods International, said he was "happy with the price," which represents a historic multiple of seven times operating profits.

The company, which made operating profits of \$48 million on turnover of \$351 million in the year to end-November, 1989 said interest payments resulting from the deal will be more than two times covered by operating income.

Mr Allen said the company plans to expand operations in France and Spain, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the USSR. He said it would also expand sales through "aggressive" new product development.



Happy with the price: Leon Allen yesterday

Yorkshire Radio in share slide

By Martin Waller

YORKSHIRE Radio Network, the USM-listed radio station, saw its share price collapse, prompting an abrupt slide in values elsewhere in the sector, when it announced a sharp fall in advertising revenue so far this year.

The shares dropped below 80p at one stage before ending at 82p, a fall of 50p, valuing the company at £7.7 million. YRN came to the market last August at 200p, which valued it at £18.7 million.

It announced in December that it had barely beaten the profits forecast made at the time of the float because of a "virtual collapse" in national advertising revenues.

Mr Michael Mallett, the chairman, says the first quarter of 1990 saw a slump of 17 per cent in total revenue on the previous year. The worst fall was in March, when national, as opposed to local, revenue fell by 45 per cent.

April had shown some improvement, but half-year figures to end-March would be "substantially below" those of a year previously. Analysts now believe interim profits of about £300,000 (previously £690,000) are likely, while Yorkshire is unlikely to make £1 million in the full year.

The bad news hit other radio shares, with Capital Radio off 19p at 135p and Chiltern Radio down 30p at 190p.

Miss Anne Fenelon, analyst at CCF Laurence Prust, said regional advertising spending on radio varied enormously from area to area, although this was not necessarily the reason for the apparent collapse at Yorkshire. "It isn't that the money isn't there — it's due probably to local factors, but also to the quality of the sales force," she said.

NP station wins DoE approval

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

NATIONAL Power, largest of the two power producers being created out of the old Central Electricity Generating Board, is likely to establish another five environment-friendly and economical gas-fired power stations after approval for its first such station at Killingholme, south Humberside.

The £250 million Killingholme combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) station, due to be completed in the autumn of 1993, will initially have a capacity of 600 megawatts, but the planning consent received yesterday from the Department of Energy would allow the site to go to 1,000 megawatts.

It will take the entire output of the CCGT gasfield, which is being developed by Total, CanadianOxy and Ultramar off the Yorkshire coast. Development of a platform and a

new pipeline for the field is likely to cost about £200 million.

The short list for the construction contract has been narrowed to two, both with a British element. One is John Brown Engineering, which uses General Electric of America technology, and the other ABB, the Swedish-Swiss partnership of Asea and Brown Boveri and with which Britain's NEI is linked.

ABB would head up the Killingholme contract if this group were successful.

Gas-fired stations are "significantly" cheaper to operate than coal-fired ones, as well as giving fewer emissions problems, so five further stations being investigated by National Power are likely to be needed, said Mr John Baker, the power group's chief executive.

How holds payout as profit dips

By Our City Staff

HOW Group, the construction services group, reports a slide in taxable profits from £6.39 million to £5.18 million for 1989. But the dividend is maintained at 2.25p.

Despite some slowdown in the construction industry, How Engineering Services has gone into 1990 with a good workload. Start-up costs of How Design and Management, the company's project management company, were heavy although within budget.

HDM has a number of contracts to undertake and is expected to be profitable in 1990. Building services plans have increased its volume and profit.

Despite the slowdown in housebuilding, the company expects growth in 1990. Progress at How Hire and Service was slowed by high interest rates. The shares fell 2p to 58p.

Rugby chief to lead ECC

By Our City Staff

MR ANDREW Teare, aged 47, managing director of Rugby Group, the building materials business, is to be the surprise new chief executive of ECC Group.

ECC, formerly known as English China Clays, has been looking for a new chief executive for about eight months. The present incumbent, Mr Stan Dennison, who will be 60 next month, is retiring because of ill health.

Mr Teare will join on July 1 — some time after ECC presents its interim figures, due in the middle of next month.

Lord Chilver, the chairman, warned shareholders at the annual meeting in February of

falling demand, which he said would severely affect profits.

One analyst said: "Despite the initial surprise, it's a logical move for someone like Andrew Teare, who is known for turning companies around."

Mr Teare said: "ECC is a bigger company than Rugby — it's a more international business. I've been here for 7½ years and we've made great progress. I'm still a youngish person, looking forward to a fresh challenge."

ECC was guarded about Mr Teare's new salary, but the latest accounts show he was probably earning more at Rugby than Mr Dennison at ECC — the highest-paid directors were on £165,200 and £142,700 respectively. He is therefore likely to have been offered about £200,000, along with an attractive share option package.



Andrew Teare: surprise

IEP to meet big Vickers investors

By Matthew Bood

SIR Ron Brierley's IEP Securities is to meet the 10 leading institutional shareholders in the engineering group Vickers this week in an attempt to win support for its demerger proposals.

IEP wrote to Vickers' shareholders yesterday with details of the restructuring proposals which, if accepted, would see Rolls-Royce Motor Cars demerged as an independent company. IEP's plan announced last month, is due to be voted on at Vickers' annual meeting a week tomorrow.

IEP is Vickers' largest shareholder with 18.6 per cent. Mr Stuart Mitchell, IEP managing director, said the 10 institutions it is to meet account for about 35 per cent of Vickers' ordinary shares. They include Standard Life, long-time holder of a 5.7 per cent stake.

Mr Mitchell believes the argument for demerging Rolls-Royce is compelling. "Unfortunately the market appears to rate Vickers on a lowest common denominator basis, rating it on its poorest business, not its best. The premium value of Rolls-Royce is hidden within the complex conglomerate structure of Vickers."

"The tactic now is to convince people of our case." Top of the list of points IEP wishes to communicate is the fact that a demerger is not the same as a sale.

Its proposals add up to a package worth potentially 255p a share to existing shareholders, with shares in a demerged Rolls-Royce worth 110p if, as IEP forecasts, the shares were rated at 12 times earnings, rather than the eight times earnings that Vickers' shares stood at before Sir Ron's initiative.

The IEP document questions the decision to acquire the engines group Cosworth, bought on a multiple of 20 times earnings. The £163 million deal is also to be voted on at the annual meeting.

Vickers shares closed yesterday unchanged at 223p, as IEP warned that it could see no reason for them to stay above 200p if its proposals are voted down.

Vickers' chairman, Sir David Plastow, had nothing to add to the criticisms he levelled at the IEP proposals in a letter to shareholders last week.

A Vickers spokesman said: "We feel that this document is a cover for Brierley's short-term aim to break up Vickers."

COMMENT

The Bank helps B&C to avoid hara-kiri

British & Commonwealth is in financial trouble far deeper than was realized. Write-offs look set to top £600 million in the 1989 accounts. This compares with a market capitalization which has slumped from almost £2 billion at its peak to £200 million and pre-tax profits of £122 million in the previous year.

What went wrong? All the blame cannot be laid at Atlantic Computer's door because asset sales started last year and shares have never been anywhere near the altitude of pre-Black Monday. Shareholders must await the full trading results before the picture becomes clearer.

Chairman Sir Peter Thompson and chief executive John Gunn put on brave faces yesterday and made reassuring noises about the soundness of the rest of their businesses. This is very good news because if there were any more bad apples in the barrel, the banks would not be so patient about allowing B&C to conduct its own £750 million fire sale.

Once this is completed by the middle of next year, Gunn reckons there will be a debt load which can be supported by a smaller company. At the moment, banking covenants are in tatters, and but for the Bank of England striding in to make all parties toe the line, the market would have witnessed corporate hara-kiri yesterday instead of a steady-as-she-goes public relations exercise.

Gunn's policy of autonomy within B&C's many businesses has come unraveled. In March, B&C's management was reshuffled and Atlantic's top two executives shown the open door.

New auditors have been appointed and B&C can look forward to a few expensive lawsuits to try and win back some of its losses. However, like Ferranti, it will probably be more window-dressing rather than a serious attempt to recoup shareholders' cash.

Tunnel torment

The latest turn of events in the crab-like progress of Eurotunnel is enough to have shareholders reaching for the Valium. It appears that, yet again, the costs of completing the cross-Channel link have slipped since the group triumphantly concluded an agreement with its bankers and the contractors as recently as January.

The agreement emerged after a great deal of acrimony between Eurotunnel and the contracting consortium, Transmanche-Link, over the reasons for escalating costs, the extent of the overruns and who was responsible. So far as shareholders were concerned, the settling of most differences between the two factions paved the way for formal agreement with the 200-plus banks funding the project, to be announced in

the spring, and a rights issue later in the year to put up an extra cushion of equity for the comfort of the bankers.

Now it appears that the numbers have changed yet again and the original timetable may be scrapped. This could lead once again to Eurotunnel having to go cap in hand to its lenders for permission to draw down further tranches of the £5 billion in cash already earmarked for the project. Shareholders, meanwhile, may now face an even heavier dilution of their original equity than the £350 million-to-£400 million expected in January. But what has gone awry this time?

So far, there is no hard guidance from Eurotunnel. Others have suggested that the new overruns relate to higher interest rates, the need for a contingency fund in the event of unforeseen disasters and a need to provide for some of the £350 million of costs which are the subject of disputes with TML. Yet in January, Eurotunnel was indicating that these had been factored into the latest £7.2 billion overall costs.

Ironically, the further cost slippage comes at a time when overall prospects for the tunnel have been improving, through excellent drilling rates achieved by the contractors and the growing prospect that the British government will make a £1 billion lump sum contribution to a new rail link with London. But long-suffering shareholders are surely due an explanation — and soon.

Rover's new chapter

Rover's completion of its share swap with Honda marks the start of a new chapter in the chequered history of Britain's biggest independent car maker. It is also a potentially significant development for Rover's parent, British Aerospace, which was widely criticized over the purchase.

B&A is candid about the role Honda has played in Rover's survival. It is doubtful that the British company could have survived without the marriage of convenience fixed by Sir Michael Edwards when he realized that Rover had a gaping hole in its new product development planning and lacked both the money and the time to plug it.

Alone, Rover lacks the financial muscle and the shop-floor efficiency to compete in an industry increasingly dominated by giant corporations. In association with one of the strongest of those giants, the prospects are far more hopeful. The deal gives Honda an opportunity to meet its objectives within Europe, and Rover access to management techniques and up-to-date technologies essential if it is to carve an up-market niche in a cut-throat business.

Commonwealth declines

AS British & Commonwealth shares were suspended at 53p yesterday, down from their high of more than £5 a piece, a number of one-time partners of Laing & Cruckshank, the stockbroker, were left with nothing to do but count their losses. Originally given a mixture of Mercantile House shares and loan notes when they sold their partnership, they ended up with B&C shares and convertible preference stock when the latter, in turn, bought L&C. While some of the 50 or so partners cashed in their shares a year or two ago, a number of others are still shareholders and have watched the value of their investment steadily dwindle. One erstwhile partner, who still works for the firm, but asked for his name to be withheld, tells me that he has lost about £400,000. "But it's only a paper loss and I took the decision some time ago to stick with the shares until the bitter end," he said. "If they come back from suspension at around 9p I might even buy a couple of hundred thousand more, for my personal account, on a two- to three-year view." Most of Laing's former partners still held some stock, he said, but were, by and large, taking a philosophical view of their predicament. "I'm a dealer," he said. "This is our life. I buy and sell, and it's part of my job. If I have to write off my entire investment, then I have to write it off. It's only a small part of my total investments."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Christmas in spring

ALWAYS a man to stand out in a crowd, Brian Winterlood, founder and boss of Winterlood Securities, the USM-listed market-maker, is planning to hold his annual Christmas party... on April 26. With invitations to the thrash, at the Institute of Accountants, due to go out shortly to about 300 or so Stock Exchange

dealers and members. Winterlood tells me: "We don't hold it at Christmas because everybody else does, and in the end, it doesn't mean anything." Clearly now something of a tradition, last year he held the party in May. "We've brought it forward simply because we were fed up with waiting for it."

Pink poser

NEWSPAPER boys in the stockbroker belt, who already find Sunday times enough, could soon find their week-days a weighty struggle too. And readers who spend their Sunday mornings gazing the colour supplements over a



waste-paper bin to shake out the inserts will be equally alarmed. For Pearson, the publishing, merchant banking and leisure group, has been investing heavily in inserting machinery for the "Pink Un". Pearson's new managing director, Frank Barlow, who used to run the Financial Times, is delighted with the new toy. "We've got people queuing up to insert their annual reports," he enthuses. Perhaps that is why Pearson has not been lobbying the Stock Exchange to keep its requirement that issue prospectuses be advertised in national newspapers, which the SE intends to drop — to one, one would have thought, the FT's cost.

THE American magazine, Wyoming Trucker, has offered some advice which could be equally well applied this side of the Atlantic. To those readers facing an increasing mountain of unpaid bills, it says: "Send out a change of address card — and then don't move."

Solid rock at market

IF Tower Hamlets' planners give its redevelopment the go-ahead, the 12-acre site of the Spitalfields fruit and vegetable market is expected to provide rich pickings for City archaeologists. Once the traders leave the market for their new site at Temple Mills, east of the capital, archaeologists will move in for what is expected to be an extensive dig. However, despite the long and colourful history associated with Spitalfields and the East End, the omens are not encouraging. The early demolition of a group of buildings at the Bishopsgate site allowed a limited amount of excavation to get under way last year. But the hoped-for traces of early Viking green-grocers or Roman fruiterers were somewhat thin on the ground. After four weeks' work, the most ancient thing they found on the site apparently was an Eddy Cochran record, circa 1962.

The 13,500 flight attendants of American Airlines, the largest US carrier, have posed a weighty problem for the airline. In a pending law suit, they have accused it of age and sex discrimination over its "grooming policy", which sets weight limits for men and women. Their union claims that America's weight tables are for small- to medium-framed women, but for large-framed men. And the company does not increase its weight limits with age. American says being overweight can impede an attendant in case of emergency.

Carol Leonard



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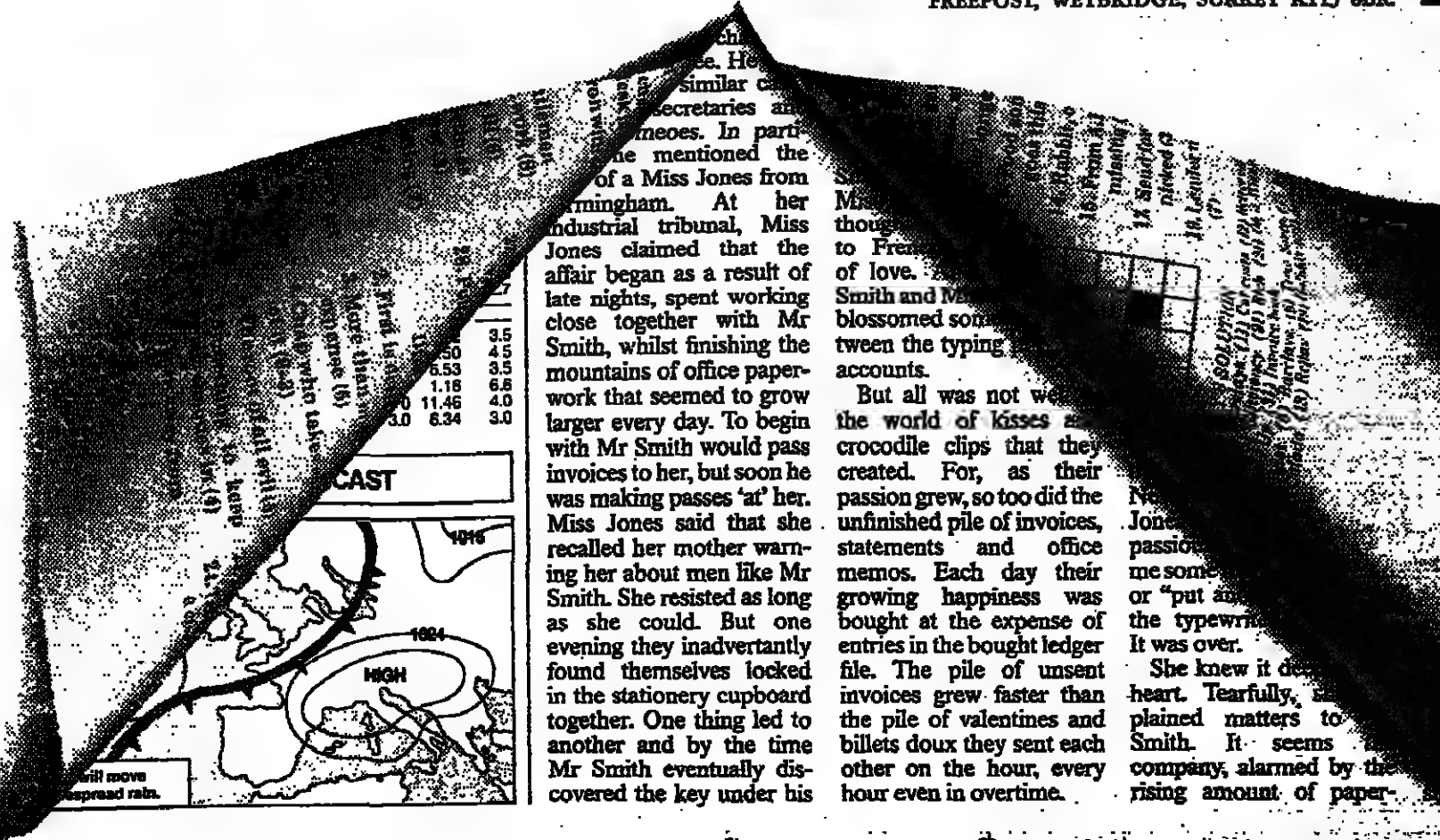
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By Melinda Wittstock

"Successful publishing in Britain is either very small or very big. Hobsons had embarked on a strategy to become big and got interrupted



He said a hearing date of June 11 had been set for Hobsons' action against the vendors of Bodytalk, the loss-making health magazine and exhibitions group it acquired in August 1988. Hobsons alleges that the financial position of Bodytalk was over-

Mr Mark Russell-Stracey, a publishing analyst with Shepards, described the deal as "fairly predictable," adding that Hobsons would find it hard to recover from its troubles without the help of a backer like DMGT.

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

Mezzanine finance, a recently-developed mix of debt and share warrants, is used in many management and leveraged buyouts, for which Wasserstein has become noted.

From Ewald Jurge

Open skies

policies of the US and UK

Perpetual boards

From the chairman of John Laing plc

Yours faithfully,
J.M.K. LAING,
Page Street, NW7.

withdraw this in favour of a company version, but the directors will brook no interference. B Gas lists impressive directors who probably act as well as any Board - yet still insist on being a self-perpetuating oligarchy.

Yours faithfully,
NOEL FALCONER,
223 Bramhall Moor Lane,
Stockport.

From Mr Noel Falconer
Sir, Diamond Centre

require that the intruder meet costs of informing very many thousands of shareholders, and refuse to circulate this with other AGM papers.

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (US\$)	Yearly change (US\$)
The World	714.0	0.7	-15.3	0.3	-11.4	0.5	-14.5
(free)	135.4	0.0	-18.1	0.3	-11.5	-0.2	-15.2
EAFE	1232.5	1.3	-20.9	1.2	-15.8	1.1	-20.1
(free)	124.9	0.1	-22.1	0.4	-16.7	-0.1	-21.1
Europe	748.7	0.7	-1.9	0.5	-2.4	0.5	-0.8
(free)	150.8	0.4	-1.8	0.4	-2.2	0.2	-0.8
Nth America	515.5	-0.3	-4.2	-0.8	-3.1	-0.5	-3.2
Nordin	1503.7	0.4	-8.4	0.4	-3.9	0.2	-2.4
(free)	238.9	0.8	1.8	0.5	0.8	0.4	2.6
Pacific	2860.5	0.1	-32.9	0.4	-24.8	0.8	-32.2
Pst East	3917.7	2.0	-32.3	1.9	-34.4	1.8	-31.8
Australia	500.4	0.4	-6.3	0.1	-4.9	0.3	-11.7
Austria	2122.0	1.2	-8.7	1.3	-4.8	1.0	-6.7
Belgium	922.2	0.3	-8.3	0.1	-7.8	0.5	-5.4
Canada	528.5	-0.1	-12.0	-0.2	-10.3	-0.4	-11.1
Denmark	1361.6	0.3	3.4	0.0	1.5	0.1	4.5
Finland	103.8	-0.8	-8.9	-0.7	-10.2	-1.0	-8.0
(free)	149.1	0.1	-4.0	0.2	-4.3	-0.1	-3.0
France	856.3	1.0	5.9	0.7	4.4	0.8	7.0
Germany	989.9	1.1	7.8	0.8	8.2	0.9	9.0
Hong kong	2852.8	1.1	6.1	0.8	7.0	0.8	7.2
Italy	399.6	2.7	3.7	2.4	1.9	2.5	4.7
Japan	4105.8	2.0	-33.4	2.0	-26.3	1.8	-28.8
Netherlands	910.5	1.4	-3.7	1.1	-3.7	1.2	-2.7
New Zealand	87.8	-0.3	-14.8	-0.2	-11.5	-0.5	-14.0
Norway	1547.2	0.5	15.9	0.7	16.5	0.6	16.5
(free)	215.5	0.5	15.7	0.7	16.0	0.8	17.0
Singapore	1653.4	0.0	-1.8	-0.1	-2.0	-0.2	-0.8
Spain	206.0	0.9	-13.0	-1.2	-14.3	-1.1	-12.1
Sweden	1599.2	0.5	-6.8	0.6	-8.1	0.3	-7.9
(free)	227.9	0.8	-5.9	0.9	-8.2	0.6	-4.9
Switzerland	871.7	0.5	-4.7	0.4	-6.8	0.4	-3.7
(free)	133.0	0.2	-4.7	0.5	-6.4	0.0	-3.7
UK	660.4	0.1	-8.4	0.1	-8.4	-0.1	-7.5
USA	465.8	-0.4	-3.8	-0.6	-2.6	-0.6	-2.8

	Cable				Page				Station				Page					
	Am	Eu	As	Pa	Am	Eu	As	Pa		Am	Eu	As	Pa		Am	Eu	As	Pa
Am & Eu	420	10	15	20	420	10	15	20	P & O	583776	87175	511	11774					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	234718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
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Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
(402)	480	15	18	24	480	15	18	24	(704)	500	54	232718	3094329					
Am & Eu	480	15																

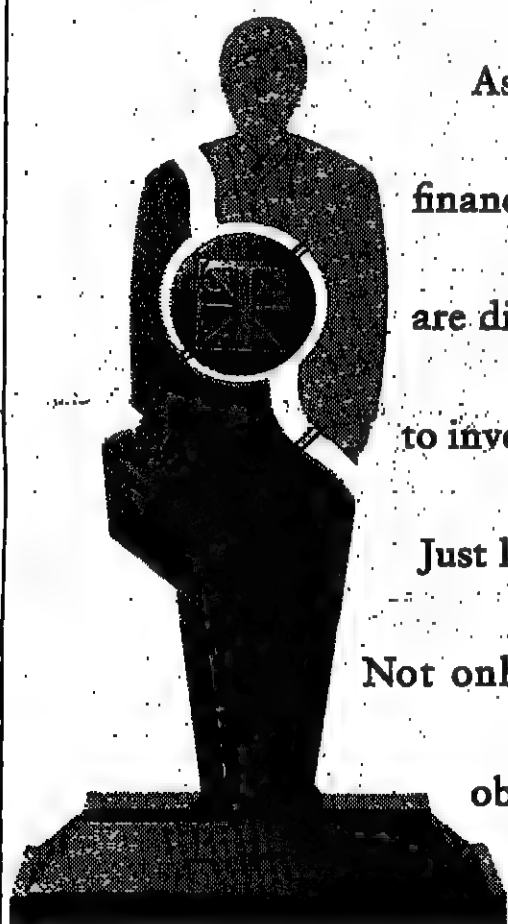


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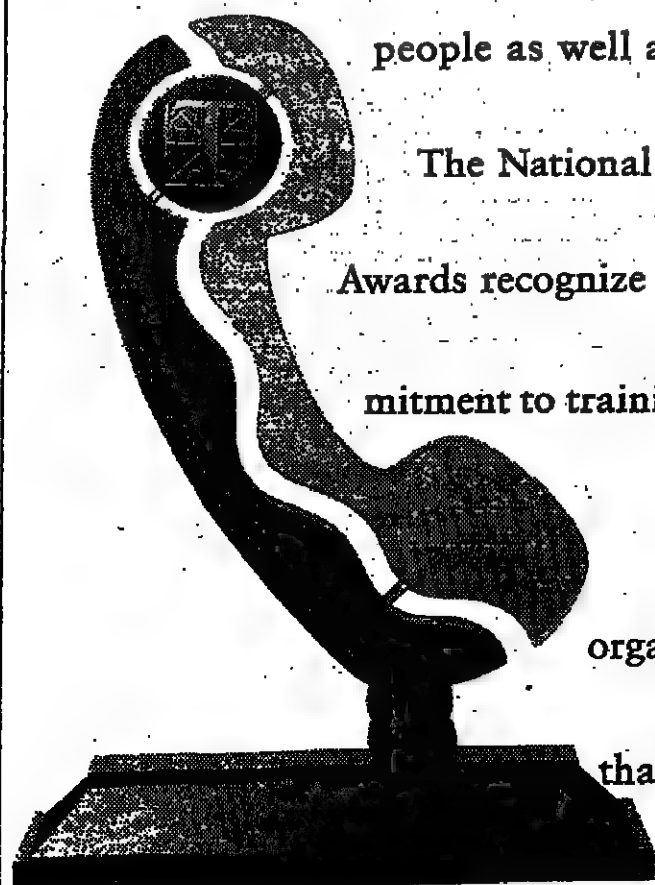
but staff morale

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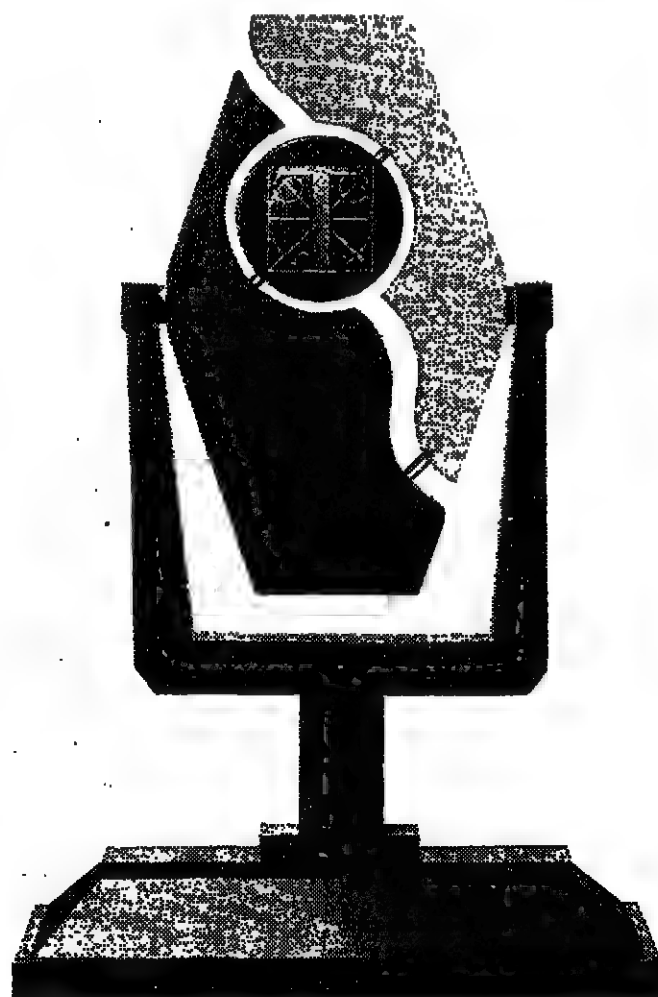
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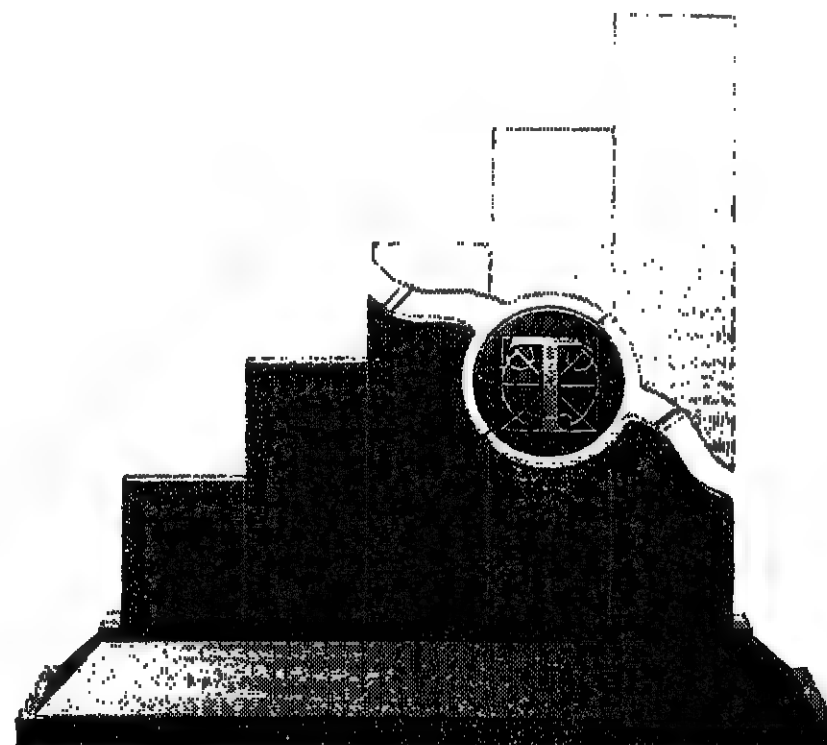


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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gains or Loss
1	Rechem	Industrial L-R	
2	General Motor	Motor, Aircraft	
3	CRH	Building, Roads	
4	Pumas	Industrial L-R	
5	Elfel	Industrial L-R	
6	BBA	Industrial A-D	
7	Freya	Industrial S-Z	
8	CH Ind	Industrial A-D	
9	Medica	Industrial L-R	
10	Procter & Gamble	Food	
11	Hawley	Industrial L-R	
12	Woolworths Retail	Chemicals, Plastics	
13	Body Shop	Draperies, Stores	
14	Carat plc	Draperies, Stores	
15	Power Drift	Transport	
16	Cap & Counties	Property	
17	First-RS	Property, Finance	
18	Power Corp	Property	
19	Lambert Horwath	Shoes, Leather	
20	Oliver Heidsieck	Property, Finance	
21	K&Z & Alder	Industrial S-Z	
22	Broken Hill	Industrial A-D	
23	Cashmere (Int'l)	Food	
24	Dalrymple	Food	
25	Elv Data Process	Electronics	
26	Berkley Op	Building, Roads	
27	Jardine Math	Industrial L-R	
28	Mowlem (Int'l)	Building, Roads	
29	Ranger	Oil, Gas	
30	Colony	Building, Roads	
31	Harrison Credit (Int'l)	Industrial L-R	
32	Fitch Lovell	Food	
33	Nor TV	Leisure	
34	Wair Paton's	Industrial S-Z	
35	Ruler Harris	Property	
36	Fosco	Chemicals, Plastics	
37	Ti Rara	Draperies, Stores	
38	P&E International	Electronics	
39	Clifford Foods	Food	
40	Sun Furniture	Industrial S-Z	
41	Cable Wireless (Int'l)	Electronics	
42	Securus Serv	Industrial S-Z	
43	Hutchinson Wharfedale	Industrial L-R	
44	Shell (Int'l)	Oil, Gas	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £3,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Three winners shared yesterday's £2,000 prize in the Portfolio Platinum competition. They were Mrs Fiona Sullivan, from Gravesend in Kent, Ms Pamela Torphichen, from London, and Mrs Dorothy Torlesse, from Romsey in Hampshire. They will each receive £666.66.

BRITISH FUNDS						
1990	No.	Low	High	Open	Close	1989

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
1990	No.	Low	High	Open	Close	1989

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
1990	No.	Low	High	Open	Close	1989

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
1990	No.	Low	High	Open	Close	1989

UNDATED						
1990	No.	Low	High	Open	Close	1989

INDEX-LINKED						
1990	No.	Low	High	Open	Close	1989

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP						
1990	No.	Low	High	Open	Close	1989

ELECTRICALS						
1990	No.	Low	High	Open	Close	1989

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares easier

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 9. Dealings end April 27. Contango day April 30. Settlement day May 8. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ea) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 30).

No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

BREWERIES							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

BUILDING, ROADS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

FINANCE, LAND							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

FINANCIAL TRUSTS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

FOODS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

DRAPERY, STORES							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

HOTELS, CATERING							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

E-K							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

L-R							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

S-Z							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

INDUSTRIALS S-Z							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

INSURANCE							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

LEISURE							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

PROPERTY							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

SHOES, LEATHER							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

TEXTILES							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

TOBACCO							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

TRANSPORT							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

WATER							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

ELECTRICALS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

ELECTRICALS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

ELECTRICALS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

ELECTRICALS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

ELECTRICALS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

ELECTRICALS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

ELECTRICALS							
No.	Company	Group	1990	1989	Change	%	P/E

Portfolio

PLATINUM

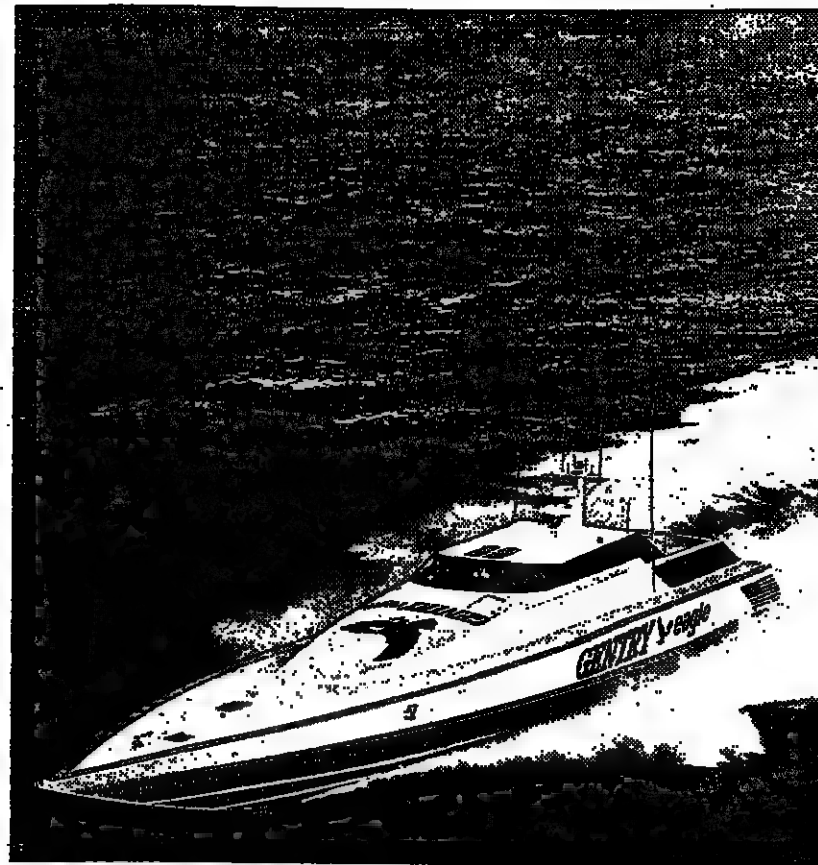
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£2,000

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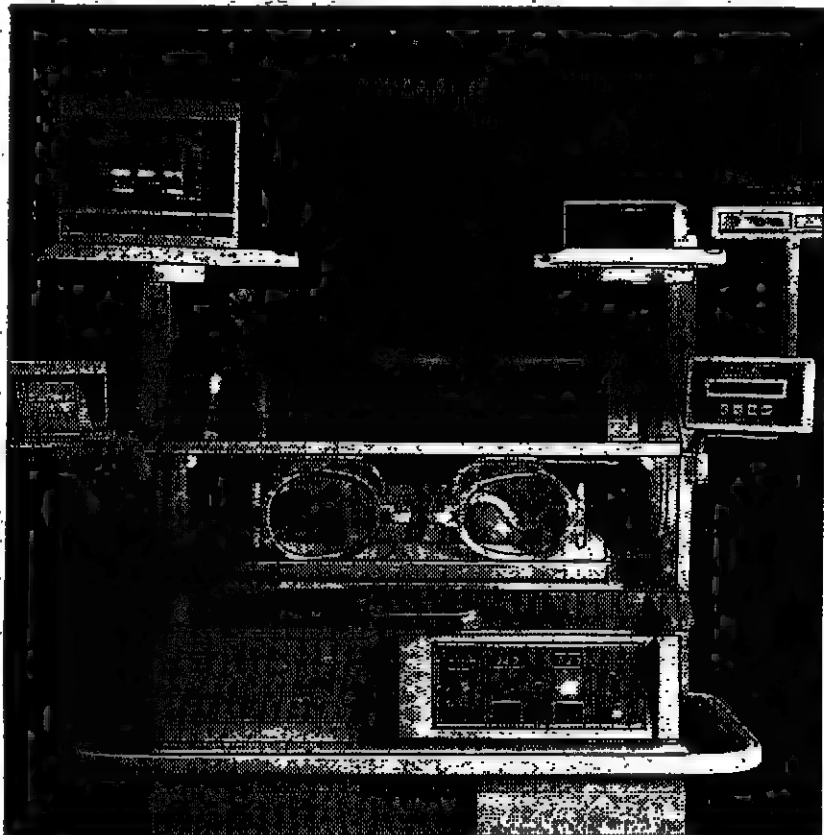
Claimants should ring 0254-53272



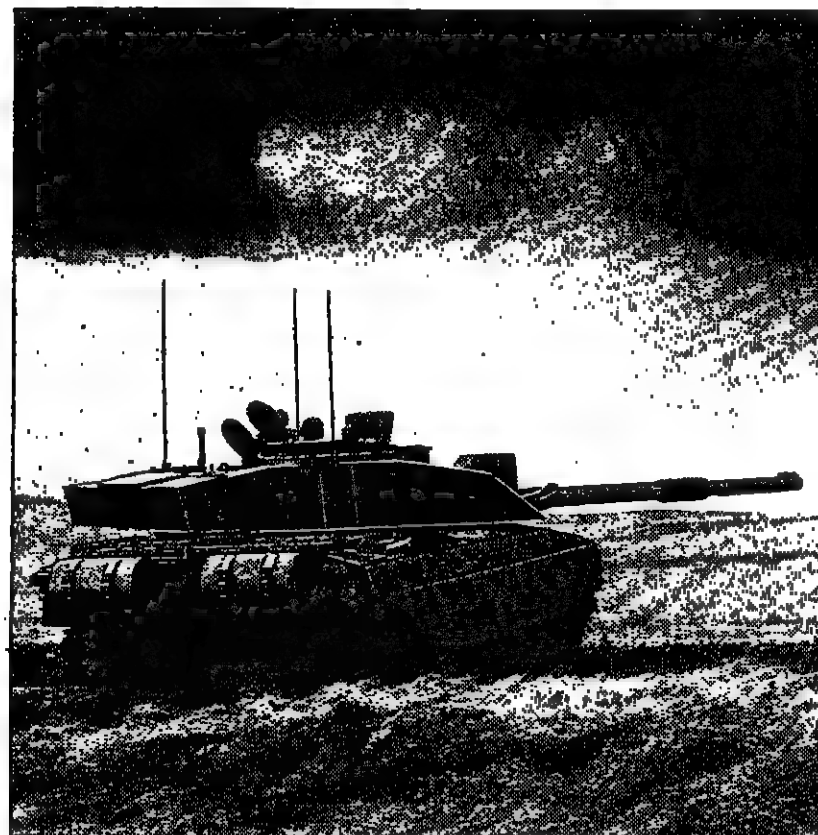
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Our marine interests include some of the most sophisticated civilian and defence engineering manufacturers in the world, including Sweden's KaMeWa, which provided the water jets for the Atlantic record-breaker Gentry Eagle.

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Our aerospace components operations are among the tiny handful of companies in the world

equipped to create and shape the super-alloys on which modern aircraft engines depend.

And our Defence Systems Division, which numbers eighteen countries among its customers, is currently demonstrating Challenger 2 - the most advanced main battle tank in the world.

Vickers has established itself as a world leader in quality engineering through its strategy of building international businesses which have strong brands and premium products. But does our financial performance measure up to the quality of our products?

Judge for yourself.

Over the past six years, our pre-tax profits have grown steadily from £19.5 million to £83.6 million.

Earnings per share have risen with much the same consistency from 5.6p to 23.3p, a compound annual growth rate of 27%.

And the future looks no less encouraging.

In an increasingly volatile business environment, there's no safeguard more effective than having - and being recognised as having - the highest standards in the market.

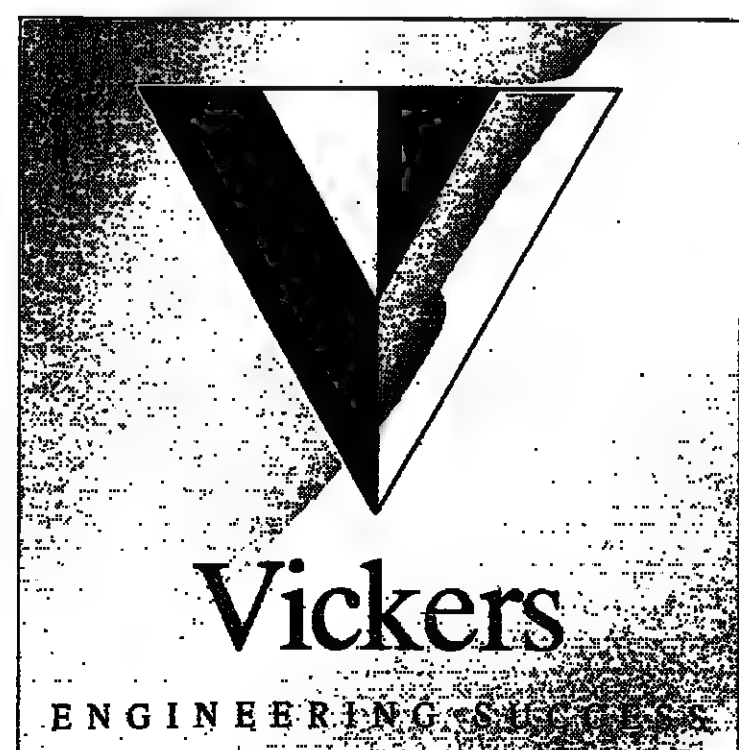
Behind this confidence lies a single-minded and continuing commitment to investing in a balanced

range of companies where the Vickers expertise, resources and philosophy of product excellence can maximise customer satisfaction, career opportunities and shareholder value.

It's an unashamedly traditional, painstaking business philosophy.

But when it comes to creating lasting success, as opposed to short-term gains, can you think of a better approach?

The Company.



Why not
for them
when v
your f

^a The number of subjects who were included in each group was 10.

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

CHARTLEIGH

Appointments

CENTRAL INFORMATION SERVICES SECRETARY

£12,800

If your ideal environment involved co-ordinating and initiating a well-balanced day, then you are just the type of person needed for this demanding position. Work within the Services department in one of London's largest most successful architectural companies as part of a hectic team. Formulate and collate project reports, type detailed and descriptive descriptions, produce graphs and charts. If you are highly motivated and have considerable intellectual abilities then call now. Ref: 58/04.

MOORGATE 01-688-7003

SENIOR SUPERVISOR

£18,000

One of Britain's major financial corporations are looking for someone with a legal background to fill this extremely high calibre position. As a WP supervisor you will be responsible for co-ordinating a handwriting team, as well as fulfilling your own demanding role. Excellent remuneration package available to exceptional candidates. Ref: PV/G2

HOLBORN 01-430-2291

FOUR WEEKS HOLIDAY

£15,250

Sounds good? This is an absolutely perfect position working on a one-to-one basis in an international company. Working for the Secretary you will become totally involved in the day to day running of the office, as well as liaising with clients, both at home and internationally. Arrange appointments and meetings, deal with any queries during your hour's absence and generally provide full back-up in the Director's wing. Good shorthand and typing required. Ref: LK/C3

OXFORD CIRCUS 01-255-3140

PROGRAMME YOUR FUTURE

£15,000

This prestigious computer consultancy need a programme analyst to assist their product and technical support teams. Knowledge of Cobol and Unix is advantageous. Your initiative and the ability to work under pressure are key aspects in securing this role. Excellent prospects within this company. Ref: AM/C4

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 01-225-1777

PA TO MD

£14,000

This small, advertising agency needs YOU to look after their dynamic young MD. Get completely involved in typing, lobby private and confidential correspondence, all daily correspondence and organising his working day. A satisfying position for a professional PA with excellent secretarial, administrative and communication skills. Ref: MJ/8934

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD 01-784-5675

KEEP IT

£13,500

You need to be fit for this position as Personal Secretary to the Vice President of this American company - so they provide the gym (paid for by you). Your Vice President has a million tasks as he travels constantly - you'll need to be able to cope in his absence. A challenging job for a busy lifestyle. Ref: JD/8934

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Modus Operandi...

£18,000

A forward-thinking and ambitious self-starter is eagerly sought by our client, a small and recently established specialist Consultancy. As Office Administrator/PA, you will enjoy organisational challenge and the opportunity to display your effective communication skills and administrative flair. A pro-active approach is vital; initially responsible for setting-up systems and providing PA support, you will also attend meetings; co-ordinate some recruitment and liaise directly with clients, suppliers, etc. Sound typing with WP literacy requested. Age 25-35 with a flexible, committed approach? For an exceptional opening offering considerable self-advancement and involvement, call 01-493 5787.

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Recruitment Consultants

MACKAY for Secretaries

OPEN TUESDAYS 'TIL 7PM

HOTEL PA £14,000
Free lunch, IFSTL, Pension. Career opportunity exists within London's leading 5 star hotel to assist this dynamic executive manager. Become involved in projects, co-ordinate his hectic diary and provide full secretarial support. Shorthand essential. Call Glynis Ranges

SHORTHAND SEC £13,000
Prestigious international company based in Paddington requires an assistant to one of their senior directors. Organise functions, make his extensive travel arrangements and provide secretarial back-up. Whilst the pace can be hectic & demanding, there's a friendly team atmosphere. Call Barbara Fisher

ADMIN SEC £13,000
If you thrive under pressure and love to organise then join fast moving international company and assist busy marketing team. This demanding but varied role has a high admin content and involves much internal and external liaison. Typing essential. Call Barbara Fisher.
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Our Fax No for CVs is 01-493 2555

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Our teams of highly trained professional consultants will evaluate your qualifications and skills and, taking into account your personal qualities and ambitions, you will receive advice on the best possible position and company to suit you.

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The agency you use says a lot about you, which is why our "Temporary Club" has grown consistently over the past ten years. If you've got first-class secretarial/PA skills and you'd like to join our team and experience top rates and quality service, call Tony Timmin on 01-629 7262.

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APPOINTMENTS
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PR PANACHE

£12,000-£14,000

The dynamic MD of this world-wide PR consultancy needs a polished and professional PA to work totally alongside her. Client liaison is extensive and in her absence you will be truly holding the fort when dealing with their most prestigious and famous clients. You will also be responsible for all secretarial recruitment and in this senior role will be called upon to ensure personnel matters are under control. This is a key role demanding initiative, intelligence and excellent communication skills.

If you possess the above with 50+ typing and 60-70wpm shorthand/speedwriting call one of our MEDIA SPECIALISTS on 01-379-3164 or 379 0344 until 8pm.



City Focus

£18,500 pckg

The Capital Markets division of a British Merchant Bank is expanding thanks to the efforts of its Marketing Director. He and his Assistant Director need an organised and enthusiastic secretary who will be the focal point of the marketing team. Diaries, client entertainment, initiating correspondence and working on the client database will keep you fully involved. Aged 25-35; financial experience, skills of 90/50wpm and A Levels required.

Please telephone Catherine Ferguson on 01-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

West End Branch of US law firm requires:

SECRETARY

We seek an intelligent, well-organised, flexible, 'fit of all trades' of A-level called. Excellent prospects for the right candidate. Computer literacy, a good command of English, numeracy, good secretarial skills and a pleasant manner are essential. Small, friendly, non-smoking office. Salary circa £12,000 a.s.e.

PLEASE RING 01-409 1903
STRICTLY (NO AGENCIES)

SECRETARY

c £14,000

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Well educated, bright, articulate and smartly presented person required with excellent, fast, accurate WP and communication skills. Preferred age group 20-30 to work in our centrally located, newly appointed offices. Ability to produce high quality work in a professional environment essential.

Contact Helen Norris, Office Administrator, AMS - Applied Management Sciences on 01-405-4571 Ex 42.

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Superb opportunities for
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Wordperfect 4.2 + 5
Plus free cross training onto
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Manpower makes the difference.

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Opportunity for a mature, capable person with computer experience to become the PA to the manager of a busy department handling public relations, publishing and marketing.

HEALTH POLICY/
CONFERENCES

PA required for manager of department handling conferences and seminars as well as health service policy. Enthusiastic and energetic person required, capable of taking responsibility for running a busy office. Word processing and shorthand skills desirable.

Non-smokers essential. Salaries negotiable. CVs including references to Senior Deputies at the Institute of Health Services Management, 75 Portland Place, London W1N 4AH, or telephone her for further details on 01-580 5041.

The Royal Brompton and National Heart Hospital
SECRETARY/PA

Salary c £11,500 pa

Our newly appointed Consultant in Clinical Biochemistry requires a Secretary/PA to coordinate and organise the administrative functions of the Department of Clinical Biochemistry.

The Department, which is part of this internationally renowned hospital specialising in research and treatment of heart and lung disease, is due to move to purpose-built facilities in the Autumn. The post would suit someone with excellent organisational skills who enjoys working on their own initiative.

Application form and job description available from the Personnel Department, Royal Brompton and National Heart Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP. Telephone: 01-351 8991 (24 hour answering machine).

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

CITY £22,000 neg (package)
A well PA with 50+ skills and experience for Main Board Director involved in Marketing for exciting City Co. Professional age 25/35.

MAYFAIR £18,000 + Bonuses.
PA to 2nd Executive in prestigious co. with worldwide involvement. Excellent skills, personality and drive for admin/organising post. Age 24-32.

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Dulcie Simpkins Appointments Ltd.
2nd Floor, 67/68 New Bond Street, W1Y 9DF

PARAGON.
WHERE ARE YOU?

Workaholic Secretary/PA, varied workload, mainly administrative for MD of Ladies Fashion Manufacturer based Kings Cross. This prodigy needs reasonably shorthand, good typing and must be well presented, articulate and have a pleasant personality.

In return we offer salary c£14,000. Excellent staff discounts, subsidised offices and a non contributory pension facility.

Please write your CV with full CV to: R.A. Paymen, L.L.F. Plc, 55 Argyle St, London WC1H 8EP.

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c.£19,000

P.O. Accountant with excellent interpersonal skills, exp. of spread sheets and PC-based accounting packages. Responsible for cash revenue generated, reviewing & updating policies & procedures. Excellent package including Free London Travel.

RADIO ADMINISTRATOR

c.£10,700

Responsible for daily activities, co-ordinating, despatching of tapes, invoicing, liaising with Radio Stations.

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

c.£10,000

Audio, WP and 5 'O' levels needed for the library dept. of prestigious, professional Co. Updating books, general library duties.

PERSONNEL OFFICER

£16,000-£20,000

You will be of graduate level, with 2-3 years postgraduate exp. and possess, or be studying for IPM. Co based N.W. London. Working for Head Office Personnel Dept. as part of a team.

MEDIA EMPLOYMENT

c.£9,500

The team who advise the Newspaper Industry on Employment legislation need a secretary with WP (shorthand useful, not essential). You will have exp., enjoy a quiet, professional atmosphere, be diligent and have lots of common sense. Age range: Mature or 15yrs +

SECRETARY CO-ORDINATOR

£12,000

Overlooking Regents Park in listed Georgian building. WP Sec to control flow of work from Market Researchers. Will have Jnr to assist. Salary review in 3 months.

75% RAIL FARE PAID

c.£12,000

SH/SEC. WP with a talent for diplomacy needed by Customer Liaison Manager. Lots of telephone work, arranging meetings etc. Free travel on London Transport.

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£11,500

If you can offer a good Audio Sec. service to the Personnel Director, this Co will give you development. Personal Training PLUS 1/2 day release for your I.P.M. studies.

TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT

£9,500

Only Sec to organise Training Team. Arrange interviews, lots of telephone contact. Electronic T/W Publishing Co.

ARTWORK MANAGER

£18,000

For Production Dept. of EIS Co. Hands on position. Control and plan activities to provide artwork for all products. Liaison with others for specs & deadlines for new product introductions.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

c.£14,000

No Shorthand. WP with Audio Sec. skills needed. 2 years legal exp. to give full sec. service to City based Solicitors. Suit someone aged 23-30 years. Excellent benefits plus TWO annual reviews.

BILINGUAL GREEK/ENGLISH

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All levels of Banking staff needed, covering most Banking disciplines. Secretaries, VDU (Wordperfect) MUST BE FLUENT GREEK with experience.

MARKETING SEC

£10,000

Senior Rep. of top of the range goods needs a sec. NO SHORTHAND, to give full support. Total involvement, visits to customers, advertising, plus commissions. Should earn approx. £14,000/yr.

SALES ADMINISTRATION

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Major function is telephone liaison with customers. Inputting orders onto VDU. Suit bubbly, enthusiastic, mature person. Based E15. Hours can be 8.30 to 5 or 9 to 5.30.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

£7,000

For NW1 based Co. Start at the bottom rung of the ladder and develop your career in marketing. You need basic keyboard skills, smart presentation, a good telephone manner to work with the Marketing Team.

PERM CONSULTANT & TEMP CONTROLLER

£15 + Commissions

The highest commissions paid. Not happy with your current situation or location? Know you can do better? Able to take over management? Interested in a partnership? This is an excellent opportunity for consultants who have employment agency experience and recruit for all office disciplines.

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SECRETARY
Home Furnishings Secondary
Products Department

Laura Ashley is an international market leader in quality Home Furnishings. The Brand Management Group, based in Fulham, needs a secretary with experience and enthusiasm to share in the Group's future success.

Responsible for all secretarial and administrative duties associated with the Home Furnishings Products Department Head and two designers, you will assist with the day to day running of the department. Key responsibilities include the composition and distribution of accurate specifications; answering queries in the absence of the designers and communicating all information and current status of products in development to the relevant parties. Ordering, monitoring and recording all departmental stock and sample levels.

You must have good communication and organisational skills together with a high standard of presentation and the necessary social attributes. Accurate typing and excellent word processing skills are pre-requisite.

In return for your experience we offer an attractive salary together with a wide range of benefits, including free BUPA membership, pension scheme, subsidised staff restaurant and generous staff discounts.

Please write with full CV, stating current salary level to Jacky Fletcher, Personnel/Administration Officer at Laura Ashley Ltd., 27 Bagleys Lane, Fulham, London SW6 2AR.



City Calling...

Looking for a top job in the City? Merryweather holds the key to your success! If you are a committed, polished, professional Secretary with sound skills (80/50) and experience, you can look forward to a bright future with any one of our many blue-chip City clients. Excellent working environment, state-of-the-art technology, superb offices, exceptional benefits packages. Salaries one from £10,000-£16,000. Don't hesitate, get your career search off to a flying start by calling us today on 01-493 0713.

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BANKING DIVISION - THE PRIVATE BANK & TRUST COMPANY LIMITED
Has been established to offer comprehensive and quality private banking services to successful entrepreneurs, wealthy businessmen, investors and their connected companies. * The Banking Division needs a departmental secretary. * The successful candidate will ideally be a college leaver/2nd jobber, looking for total involvement in all aspects of departmental work, with skills of 90/50. Word processing essential. Lotus 123 desirable. * If you feel you meet our needs, we have an exciting opportunity. Salary circa £12,500 together with an attractive package of banking benefits. * Please reply in writing with Curriculum Vitae to Graham Holdgate, The Private Bank & Trust Company Limited, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 5DG.

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Design Consultants/Architects c.£17,000+
Top PA/Sec to assist Senior Partner of this prestigious group. A good all-round administrator with fast SH/typing skills. Must scope to get involved with New Business Development. Lovely offices in W1. Age 24+

Top PA - Sussex c.£14,000+
The Chief Executive of this expanding international company needs an experienced Board level PA/Sec. Excellent skills, mature and team spirit needed for the fast moving entrepreneurial environment. Age 27-50.

Contact Joanna Rowan

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Wimbledon Secretarial Specialists

EXCLUSIVE PJA

Are you a dynamic person requiring a demanding yet exciting PA position with PA knowledge? Do you have experience in the construction, hotel, catering or other related in a fast paced environment?

The attractive role offers the opportunity to represent various house furniture and other businesses. Can drive several vehicles. Own office in suburban London (Wimbledon) Salary up to £18,000 pa.

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Fax 01-879 7326. Appointments to suit (Rec. Con)

Mature PA/Secretary £16,000 + AAE

A unique position exists with a small professional team involved with mergers and acquisitions in international publishing. Above all the applicants should be well versed in the art of discretion and be able to display a high degree of initiative. The person would not associate with power and senior level experience who enjoy responsibility. Full secretarial support with excellent shorthand for the Managing Director and other company personnel as required. Age 26 with good sense of humour.

Please call Dulcie Simpkins for more details on 01-495 1484 (no com)

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£14K + MORE \$\$\$

Enjoy the buzz and fast pace of the City within this leading investment bank. You'll assist the international private clients desk and ensure the smooth running of their very busy office. Good organisation ability together with 80/50 skills needed.

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Every six weeks an auction is held. Every six weeks hopefully a celebration!! A unique opportunity to join one of London's leading international property firms as an Auctioneer's Secretary. Working with this young, wacky team the position involves lots of client liaison, attending the auctions, admin and typing correspondence (audio).

If you possess a sense of humour and wish for an exciting and rewarding position, please call 01 323 3388.

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£18,000 P.A.

Newly appointed Board Director responsible for Corporate Finance, seeks a confident PA/Secretary with excellent shorthand and WP skills. 'A' level English desirable and a sound knowledge of French or any other European language would be an advantage.

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Don't be tied to a desk! Get out and about on campus & meet people. This organisation offers full training on WP working with executives in this cheerful set up. 45 days holiday, lots of initiative and organisation skills. 30+ days holiday. Sports centre, travel loans, immediate non-union pension, sick rest, + 2 increases per year. Good spelling and grammar please!

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01-623 1226**FULHAM****£15,000+**

Challenging and satisfying role as a Senior Secretary for two directors in an up-market software company. Daily shorthand and WP (Wang-type), client liaison, international travel arrangements and meetings to be arranged. Modern business park with ample parking available.

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Your dynamic, personality & ex-sec skills will be valued by the Vice-President of this fast expanding firm. On based in SW1. Total involvement in all aspects of marketing & the day to day running of the company. You will be responsible for all aspects of marketing & the day to day running of the company. You will be responsible for all aspects of marketing & the day to day running of the company.

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HOLBORN
01-631 0966**SHORTHAND SEC****£12,500**

A social club, P.P.P., UV, and free SHL and life insurance are the benefits you receive whilst looking after a team of 3 key managers in this young luxury Oil company based in Piccadilly. Accurate shorthand skills (Shorthand and WP) a good sense of humour and the ability to use your initiative will be the keys to your success.

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE
01-589 5392**RUN THE SHOW****SHEPHERDS BUSH £14,000**

With your role as PA to the MD within this lucrative business of outdoor jewellery and accessories, you will be able to utilise your handwriting (Thul) skills and WP skills to enjoy a position of responsibility, variety and total job satisfaction. The location is in a secluded house with parking and easy access to the road.

Call Richard Fox on 01-846 9757.

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01-834 6386**BENEFITS - YOU GET****£13,000**

Make the move into this Financial Services organisation. The lady applicant will be based in Oxford English & Maths with excellent skills in accounting, typing, previously used with a blue chip organisation. Benefits include: First house, 3 years back, sub. ins. 1975L, staff discounts, share & savings scheme. An opportunity not to be missed!

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01-734 0911**OPPORTUNITIES IN PERSONNEL**

We have excellent opportunities for secretaries interested in gaining experience in the field of personnel.

PA to Personnel Director**£14-15,000**

This is a demanding role providing vital administrative and secretarial support to the Director of Personnel. In addition to first class secretarial skills including shorthand, you should have the confidence and flair to liaise with senior people both within the council and externally.

You should have a flexible and committed approach and be willing to work on your own initiative. **Ref: ALB1**

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Working in a Personnel team your main duties will include confidential typing and general administrative duties.

You should have good all-round secretarial skills (shorthand not necessary). **Ref: ALB2**

In addition to an attractive salary with a twice-yearly bonus, free health insurance, flexible hours, good holidays and subsidised lunches, we offer a friendly working environment, with the latest technology, located close to Kensington High Street.

To apply call Karen Allan on 01-937 9336 (fax: 01-937 8612) today up to 6pm to arrange an immediate interview quoting the appropriate reference.

We are an equal opportunity employer.

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A unique opportunity for an experienced, organised PA/Administrator to play an active part in our senior management team by providing full secretarial support to the Secretary Registrar and the President.

The successful candidate will possess excellent shorthand, keyboard and word processing skills, together with the commitment and initiative to enjoy a dynamic role. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are equally essential for this top level post. Previous experience in committee work (including minute taking) would be an advantage.

Benefits are extensive and include 25 days holiday, flex-time, subsidised staff restaurant and contributory pension scheme. For an application form please write or telephone, quoting job reference JF/1, to Vivienne Marsh, Personnel Manager. Answerphone available. Closing date for applications: 3 May 1990. Smoking is actively discouraged.

ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY
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London SE1 7JN
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Many of our high profile, immensely successful clients in Fashion, Retail, PR, Management Consulting, Advertising, PR and the Legal and Art worlds are currently seeking polished, professional individuals to play leading roles in the smooth running of their busy Reception areas. Being the very first point of contact for many of their VIP clients, they are seeking PR-oriented "diplomats" who combine effective communication skills with poise, charm and a cheerful disposition. Some positions need typing, many don't. Both City and West End locations. For details, telephone us in confidence, on 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?**SECRETARY £14,000**

A highly successful and prestigious Financial Company based in the City, now has an excellent opportunity for a confident and energetic individual.

A key member of a busy administrative team, you will essentially be providing secretarial support to the Senior Partner and other members of the team.

With at least 2 years' experience, ideally gained in a fast-moving environment, you will have sound secretarial skills (80/50) and auto, together with a good general standard of education. The ability to work effectively under pressure and on your own initiative is essential, as are excellent communication and presentation skills.

In return for your enthusiasm and commitment, you'll receive a great salary and benefits, plus all the scope you need to develop and progress.

Age 22+

City Office. Tel: 726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

Recruitment Consultants

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR £15,000

A great opportunity to get into a fast-paced, exciting environment. Good experience and administrative skills plus computer training and computer packages are needed to join this London based Publishing House. Excellent benefits and prospects.

Call Anne-Marie on 01-629 4031.

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PA required for Direct Marketing subsidiary of large W1 advertising agency. Excellent opportunity to utilise your organisational and computer skills to help bring order to this busy and fast expanding company. Time commitment: 4 days per week.

Call Anne-Marie on 01-629 4031.

For more information on these and many other vacancies call 01-941 9411 AFB Recruitment Ltd 17 Gate Street, London WC2A 3ER

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International fashion role for skilled PA (80/50) who is thoroughly at home and experienced in working with figures. LOTUS 1-2-3 or WORDPERFECT 5 essential. High degree of administration including dept. recruitment in this top City Co. Call Debbie on 377 6777.

Middleton Jeffers

RECRUITMENT LIMITED

Small Pharmaceutical Company**Secretary circa £11,000**

Our young Pharmaceutical company is looking for a confident and energetic secretary. You will work with the small team to provide a comprehensive service to the Company's Management and Research staff with potential for development into a Financial Assistant or Director. Ideally candidates will have a proven record with at least two years' experience. Knowledge of M.S. Word and auto, together with a good general standard of education. The ability to work effectively under pressure and on your own initiative is essential, as are excellent communication and presentation skills.

If you feel you would enjoy working within this busy and varied environment we would be pleased to hear from you.

Please contact Judith Kennedy, Tel: 797-4282 (Fax: 274-9677) for further details. It is essential that interview take place on 30 April - 2 May. Applications are deadline 10 April 1990.

Age 22+

City Office. Tel: 726 8491

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Recruitment Consultants

TELEVISION**£13,500**

Dynamic, progressive TV company with a young and busy receptionist, looking for a secretary to work at director level within their marketing dept. The position involves lots of telephone work, answering calls and dealing with enquiries, as well as providing excellent secretarial support. If you have 2-3 years' experience with a mature, established work environment - Call Julie Siddons on 01-845 9787.

Age 22+

City Office. Tel: 726 8491

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Millions poured into waterways

Waterside locations are as attractive to companies seeking commercial property as it is to home-buyers, a fact recognized by the Central Manchester Development Corporation, whose land in the centre of the city is threaded by an extensive canal and river system, albeit neglected for years.

The corporation intends to unlock the waterside development potential by spending about £2.5 million over the next 18 months on cleaning and maintenance. Of this, £1.8 million will be spent on dredging and canal repairs and the remainder on landscaping, new towpaths and lighting.

Already the corporation has spent £200,000 on refurbishing the Rochdale Canal, including replacing a huge water plug.

Many other projects are in progress or planned. Next September, work on the £5.5 million refurbishment of Lee House, a Grade II listed building overlooking the Great Bridgewater Canal, will be completed to give 107,000 sq ft of office space. June will see the completion of the Castlefield Hotel, which overlooks the canal basin.

To the east of the city centre, formerly the heartland of industrial Manchester, the first phase of the £10.5 million Piccadilly Village scheme is nearing comple-

Manchester's canal network is being smartened up to take ambitious new developments

tion. Set on the banks of the Ashton Canal, it will include 125 houses and flats, 15 craft studios, shops and 16,000 sq ft of new office space. The development, on a six-acre site of derelict and under-used land, is a joint venture between Trafford Park Estates and Moran Holdings.

Alongside the Ashton Canal Basin, Avatar, the property development company established by London and Edinburgh Trust and Balfour Beatty, is refurbishing the Grade II listed Ducie Street warehouse. This will create 140,000 sq ft of studio/office accommodation. A floating créperie forms part of the scheme.

One of the most ambitious projects is the £100 million scheme at Piccadilly Harbour by the Rochdale Canal Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Town Centre Securities. On a 12-acre site surrounding the Rochdale Canal, stretching from Great Ancoats Street to Piccadilly Sta-

tion, it will provide nearly 500,000 sq ft of offices, about 163,000 sq ft of leisure and retail space, and a 300-room hotel. A residential scheme is also planned, and it is proposed to create new canal "arms" to provide further opportunities for development.

Another imaginative scheme is at the Victoria & Albert warehouses overlooking the River Irwell, where the Granada group is to turn the old Grade II listed buildings into a 130-bedroom hotel with a conference and function centre.

At Castle Quay, the Manchester Ship Canal Company is planning a £25 million mixed development comprising a refurbished early Victorian cotton warehouse and new construction for a largely retail and leisure scheme.

The company is also to start work shortly on the first phase of a mixed office, residential, retail and leisure scheme on its 37-acre island site at Pomona Strand, on the fringes of Salford Quays.

The £100 million development is the largest single scheme in the North-West, and will provide 940,000 sq ft, including about 474,000 sq ft of offices and shops. It has been designed in the style of Amsterdam and Copenhagen, featuring tall, narrow buildings, and will have a light rapid transport system.



Taking the drain strain: John Glester (left), chief executive of Central Manchester Development Corporation, and David Perry, director of the Rochdale Canal Company, pull the plug to empty the Rochdale Canal during refurbishment work.

Bankers slip down office rental league

OFFICE development in central London in December was at its highest level since 1983, with 17.5 million sq ft under construction, a 19 per cent increase on the previous June, says Jones Lang Wootton in its "Central London Offices Research" report.

Despite such activity, however, there is a shortage of immediately available new space. Take-up of new space fell by 8 per cent to 2.4 million sq ft in the second half of 1989, while the take-up of previously occupied space rose by 6 per cent to 1.5 million sq ft.

The report identifies a transition in the letting market, with the banking and finance houses no longer dominating the take-up of new space.

Historically, companies from this sector have been involved in more than 40 per cent of deals by floorspace, but in 1988 this figure

fell to 36 per cent, and in 1989 declined to less than 25 per cent of the total take-up.

In their place, the professional services sector has become increasingly active, accounting for the highest proportion of take-up during 1989 at 35 per cent, compared with an average of 12 per cent during the period since 1981.

Solicitors continue to be particularly active, taking space throughout the City, with major deals including Clifford Chance taking 427,000 sq ft at Wimpey Property Holdings' Little Britain schemes, and Herbert Smith taking 230,000 sq ft in the Rosehaugh Stanhope flagships, Exchange House, Broadgate.

In addition, Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the accountants, has taken the entire 350,000 sq ft Greycoat-British Rail Embankment Place scheme.

IN THE MARKET

Thamesor Properties has been given full planning consent for a £700 million office scheme on Kensington High Street, London. The existing building on the site, College House, in Wrights Lane, bought by Thamesor for £28 million, will be replaced with 180,000 sq ft of offices, designed by Renton Howard Wood Levine, and due for completion in mid-1992.

Kinson, in partnership with Guinness Mahon, has completed its £25 million mixed-use scheme in Holborn, close to Farringdon Station, London. Named Goldsmith Square, the office phase has 12 buildings in a

courtyard setting, with accommodation ranging from 1,800 sq ft to 5,600 sq ft, and totaling 34,000 sq ft. It is part of a 122,000 sq ft scheme including industrial and residential usage. The agents, Richard Main and Co and De Groot Collis, seek £350 per sq ft for the long leaseholds.

Ford Sellar Morris Properties and the Bedford Property Group have linked in a £130 million office development at Western Avenue, London. The 10.5-acre site was bought from Unigate for £16 million and has detailed planning consent for 312,500 sq ft of offices and a further 180,000 sq ft of B1 units.



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ATHLETICS

Failures in Boston open up selection for marathon men

From David Powell, Athletics Correspondent, Boston

THE failure of Steve Jones and Dave Long to distinguish themselves in the Boston Marathon on Monday has probably cleared the way for three British men in the ADT London Marathon this weekend to secure European championship selection with no more than moderate performances - around 2hr 11min or 2hr 12min. The unexpected entry into the equation is Geoff Smith, twice a Boston winner and a 1984 Olympic runner who made something of a comeback in the world's oldest annual marathon.

Smith was seventh in Boston in 2hr 13min 58sec. "It was a bit of a shock," he said. "I really didn't think I would finish so high." After two years in which his performances have been hampered by glandular fever, he has been back in full training for only seven months. Suddenly his confidence has been bolstered. "I can definitely run 2hr 9min again," he said.

If a man of 42 can run 2hr

11min 46cc, as did New Zealand's John Campbell in Boston to set a world veterans' best, Smith, at 36, may not be over-reaching in his ambition. In case you had forgotten, Smith was the Liverpool fireman who in 1983 ran out of hose when the heat was on. His moment of despair, after being overtaken by Rod Dixon in the last 385 yards of the New York Marathon, was captured in a memorable finishing-line photograph of Dixon with arms aloft while Smith lay exhausted on the floor.

Smith's time that day, 2hr 9min 58cc, remains his best. "I have not had many race directors on the phone lately, but I may get a few calls now," Smith said. It is doubtful one will be from the British selectors, though the resident of East Freetown, Massachusetts added: "If they pick me I will run, but I don't think they will. After all, it's only 2:13 I ran."

Only 2:13 may prove beyond three British men in

London, as it has on more than one occasion in the past. The domestic entry for Sunday's race does not look especially strong. If three British athletes fail to beat Smith's time, there may yet be hope for Jones, who failed to finish in Boston but was fourth in the Commonwealth Games in 2hr 12min 46cc.

Although the European qualifying standards must be set after March 1 for most events, the marathon is an exception and the selectors may feel that Jones would have a better claim.

The one British marathon runner sure of a place is Veronique Marot. Her 2hr 31min 09cc in Boston was her fastest in three attempts since she set a British best of 2hr 25min 56cc in London last year. Two days before the race she said: "I need to show that I am not dead and buried. People will soon forget I ran 2:25 if I keep running 2:36." She has been troubled for some months by shin splints but now has the problem under control.

Aged 34, she said that she did not expect to continue as a serious marathon runner much beyond the 1992 Olympics. "I would like to have a shot at a medal at the next three championships [European, world and Olympics] but I work full-time as a solicitor and I am not prepared to put 10 per cent of my life into running."

Veronique racing has become a profitable business as Campbell discovered when he won \$38,000, about half in awards to those in the over 40 age group. His name is in the Kent record books, too, the only man to win four county league cross country races in a season.

Anne Roden, aged 43, was so contemptuous of England's decision to leave her out of the Commonwealth Games team as to assume, after winning the women's veterans' section, that she is not a favoured runner and, come what may, she will not be considered for Split. She was 24 seconds inside the 2hr 40min qualifying time imposed by Britain for selection.

The British women's entry for London is weak but not so weak, one hopes, for it to be necessary to be looking at 2hr 39min for selection.



Zannoni (Bruce Raymond) holds the determined challenge of Drum Sergeant (Pat Eddery) in Newmarket's Keylocks Publications Maiden Stakes

Guineas picture confused after Heart Of Joy's nail-biting win

By Michael Seely
Racing Correspondent

AFTER an interval of 25 nail-biting minutes and a call for two prints, Jonathan Dymally, the judge, announced that Heart Of Joy had beaten In The Groove by a short head in yesterday's Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket.

The second print showed that Hashish, Al Bahadur's daughter, finished the same distance as the winner.

The consensus of racecourse opinion had been that Steve Caughen had forced In The Groove past Walter Swinburn in the final strides to snatch the prize for Monday's Fairhouse hero, David Elsworth.

"I was sure that we'd been beaten," said Michael Seely, having repeated Sonic Lady's 1986 win for the stable with Heart Of Joy. "I went home to do some work. But when I heard we'd won, I came back to collect the prize."

During the past fortnight yesterday's winner had been backed from 16-1 to 3-1 to improve on Stoute's remarkable record of having led one winner and nine placed horses in the 1,000 Guineas. But the uncertainty created by yesterday's desperate affair is reflected in the revised betting.

Heart Of Joy is now top quoted at 5-1, with In The Groove and Hashish being generally on offer at 3-1. Yesterday's promising fourth, Sally Rous, is a 12-1 chance.

First impressions must be that In The Groove, the strongest finisher of yesterday's almost inseparable trio, is the most attractively priced. But Jonathan Thompson, Ladbrokes' auto-post manager, said: "The trouble is the stable also got David Caughen in the race. After today, it is difficult to know what is going to win."

Walter Swinburn, asked how he considered his chances of repeating last year's win on Musical Bliss, commented: "I am not at all disappointed. It was our money that made me 3-1. She's crying out for an extra furlong. And she didn't get into top gear until we hit the rising ground. I only gave her one tap down the shoulder with the whip."

Elsworth, delighted with In The Groove, is now looking forward to running Drum Sergeant in Friday's Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury. "There's never been much between them at home," he said. "But David Caughen is the better horse and a bit extra for the track."

The final pieces of the 1,000 Guineas puzzle will hopefully fall into place after the Berkshire course's seven-furlong test.

Dead Certain is to take on Chimes Of Freedom and Sakabidi, John Dunlop's Prix Marcel Boussac winner, who has recently been heavily backed to repeat Quick As Lightning's win for Arundel.

Sakabidi is generally on offer at 6-1 with Chimes Of Freedom at 7-1 and Dead Certain at 12-1.

Negligent and Silk Slippers are both likely to go for the Guineas without a preliminary race.

After winning the TUA Handicap with Bold Russian, Barry Hills said: "I'm pretty confident of getting them both to Newmarket. The will both be galloping with Strike Force after racing at Newbury on Saturday."

Traditionally, the first bold strokes across the classic canvas are drawn at this meeting. And William Jarvis received encouragement for the chances of Contract Law in the 2,000 Guineas after Drum Sergeant had been beaten only a short head by the favourite, Zannoni, in the Keylocks Publications Maiden Stakes.

Contract Law has not been seen in public since chipping a bone in his knee last summer.

"After that I'm very hopeful indeed that I can get the colt ready for the Guineas," said the trainer, Michael Jarvis, delighted at having got off the mark for

the season with Zannoni, said: "This is an improving colt and we might manage to win a group race with him."

All the money in the 2,000 Guineas continues to be for Shavian, who is now top priced at 7-1. But after Great Heights and Caughen had landed the odds of 7-4 on in the Museum Stakes, Henry Cecil warned that Shavian might be in need of the outing in tomorrow's Craven Stakes.

"He's a very good horse, but his stifle. He was laid up for 2½ weeks and missed a bit of work. But whatever happens, I think I'll get him spot on for the Guineas."

Mike Channon's remarkable start to his training career continued when the former England soccer star won the opening Constant Security Stakes with Slow Exposure for Koo Stark, and went on to complete a double with Piper's Hill at Warwick. Channon has now had five winners this year. "It's like the rest of life," he said. "It's all down to hard graft and teamwork."

Marin Pipe's 6-1 double with Walnut Way and Bradmore's Vision at Chesham yesterday, following six winners at four meetings on Monday, left the Wellington trainer on the 185 mark, and virtually assured of a double century for the second year running.

Blitzkrieg too good for Kiichi

FOR the second day running, a grey chaser captured the big prize at Fairyhouse with Blitzkrieg making all the running to win the Power Gold Cup yesterday (see Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

He had been hampered when this to Commandante in the Article Trophy at Clontarf and now comfortably reversed the placings with Kiichi, who had been second in that event.

Royal Derby, who had won his two previous outings in England, made a bold attempt under 11st 12lb to lead from start to finish in the £120,000 Humber Handicap Hurdle but was beaten on the run-in by the lightweight Atty Spirit. This was the fourth win in a row for Atty Spirit.

At Fairyhouse this afternoon, Charlie Brooks runs both Seymour and Bell Glass in the £120,000 Tattersalls Four-Year-Old Hurdle. Mark Dwyer partners Bell Glass, a winner three times on the Flat in France last year and narrowly beaten by Sully Boy at Newbury.

Brooks also makes a strong attempt to win the £120,000 Tattersalls Novice Chase with All Jeff (Ben de Haan), who on his latest outing, at Sandown, gave 13lb and a six-length beating to the subsequent Liverpool winner Brandon.

NETBALL

Counties double beckons

By Louise Taylor

HAVING already secured the PES English Counties League title, Bedfordshire enter the sport's version of the FA Cup this weekend with a double in their sights.

Regarded as the spectacle of the season, the Evian Inter-County tournament, to be held at The Orchard sports centre, Aylesbury, starts on Saturday and Sunday, involves 160 matches on nine adjacent courts.

Progressing from mini-leagues to play-offs, semi-finals and the final, the competition is divided into seniors, with 51 entrants, and under-21, to be contested by 46 teams.

Birmingham, winners of last year's League, did the double by beating the under-21s in an achievement which Bedfordshire are keen to emulate. Yet with tournament matches only nine minutes each way nothing is predictable.

Whoever the winners, Liz Nicholl, the chief executive of the All England Netball Association (AENA), is confident the weekend will prove enjoyable. "It should be a real festival of netball," she said. "The competition is intense, but with everyone staying in London it is also a very sociable weekend."

Bedfordshire's success in their senior counterparts by claiming the PES under-21 county championship.

Sheila Redpath, an administrator at the AENA's headquarters in London, will arrive in New Zealand today to umpire the Mito international series against Jamaica.

ICE HOCKEY

Devils' feats recognized for all stars

THE success of Cardiff Devils is reflected in the premier division all-star team, selected by the British Ice Hockey Writers' Association (Norman de Mesquita writes). The team includes the Devils players, Jeff Smith, Stephen Cooper, Shannon Hope and Steve Morris.

Brian Kanewischer is named coach of the year. Cooper is named as the winner of the Alan Weeks Trophy, awarded to the best British defenceman.

Among the inductees to the British ice hockey hall of fame is the late Sir Arthur Ervin, who established the sport at Wembley in the mid-1930s.

GOLF

Rafferty suffers in silence

From John Hennessey, Causes

RONAN Rafferty did his best to stave off the inevitable before the start of the Credit Lyonnais Open last Friday. He had then questioned the wisdom of embarking on a tournament in Europe the week after competing in an American major, in his case the Masters.

A five at the 18th on the Mougins Country Club course, surely one of the least demanding closing holes on the Volvo European Tour, since it requires no more than a drive and wedge, denied him a share of the lead and the chance of a victory in a play-off against Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe.

Ian Woosnam, his Ryder Cup colleague on the other hand, would subscribe to Rafferty's

philosophy on the evidence of his closing 72, which he believed strokes back. An unfortunate six at the fourth, where his ball drew blood from the head of a spectator before ricocheting out of bounds, did not of course help his cause, but it was his indifferent overall play which caused his downfall.

His 67 on the third day had installed him as leader and clear favourite, but even then he had not played well. His sleep had been seriously disturbed by a traumatic encounter and he was surprised himself to have scored so well.

Jet-lag, we must assume, caught up with him. He is by no means the first to suffer. Severiano Ballesteros even

missed the cut here two years ago in a similar situation, a poor reward to the sponsors for their generous appearance money.

For Rafferty of course the tournament was no disaster. His prize for second place was £33,300 but the enigma remains. He declined to discuss his golf after he had finished his fourth round, a natural reaction, one might think, after that first at the 18th, where a sudden shift in wind caused him to overhit his second.

But he had earlier given a foretaste of his wish to be left to himself. Having to play a chip shot from behind the 16th green, he was asked by a considerate marshal if he would like any spectators moved. "Yes, all of them," he replied.

The will prevent Chen Xinhua, the former World Cup winner from China, who has lived in this country for the past two years, from playing for the women's 1994 in European events, by which time he was 34. The England captain, Donald Parker, will probably regret this, particularly as England failed to justify their second seeding in the last European event, by which time he was 34.

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Carl Preen, England's best player this season, was beaten twice in that loss and was unexpectedly beaten in another German, Peter Franz, his club captain at Gretna in the Bundesliga.

Although Lisa Lomas did well with excellent team event victories over Olga Nemova, Otilia Bedescu and Renata Kasalova, the women's 1994 in European events, by which time he was 34.

The best achievement was that of the other national champion, Alan Cooke, in reaching the men's singles quarter-finals. Cooke beat Andrei Matznevov, the Soviet No. 1, and John-Michael Seavey, the brilliant Belgian, who was only beaten in four games by Mikael Appelgren, of Sweden, who went on to defend the title successfully.

This return to form of the man who has been a modest success in the past, particularly as it is no longer fair to expect exceptional feats from Diamond Douglas at the age of almost 35.

Chen might therefore be a timely acquisition, and how far the national council of the English Association has been influenced by the European vote will be seen in three days' time. Then they will decide whether Chen should become available without a British passport, according to the International Federation two-year rule, which would make him eligible on May 15.

If most councillors are still in favour of Chen, as they appeared to be before Gothenburg, the game will have a curious anomaly. He will be available for the World Team Cup in Japan, starting on May 17, and for next year's world championships, but not for either the European championships or the European League.

TABLE TENNIS

Chen must wait for four years

By Richard Eaton

THE most significant development of a slightly disappointing European championships for England was the European union's decision in Gothenburg to change the eligibility qualification for migrating players from two years to six years for team events, and to three years for individual events.

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Amy's Mystery upsets strong favourite in Times qualifier

Point-to-point
By Brian Beal

THE Times Championship qualifier at the Saintcloud point-to-point on Monday resulted in an easy win for Steven Charlton on Amy's Mystery, who went clear from three out to beat the even money favourite Thursday Man (John Beardsall) by a distance with Mike Sowersby, on Fair Vicky, in third place.

Trained by Susan Thompson, Amy's Mystery, who failed to finish in his three races last season, was following up a good maiden win at the Bramham Moor a fortnight ago and proved a Charlton, who is assistant to John Parkes of Call Collect fame, with his second riding success.

Richard Burridge landed a notable double in the Irish Grand National and the Saintcloud maiden and the second afternoon. While David Orchid was thrilling the record crowd at Fairyhouse, Howard Brown brought home his summer stable companion, Made

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Point-to-point
By Brian Beal

THE Times Championship qualifier at the Saintcloud point-to-point on Monday resulted in an easy win for Steven Charlton on Amy's Mystery, who went clear from three out to beat the even money favourite Thursday Man (John Beardsall) by a distance with Mike Sowersby, on Fair Vicky, in third place.

Trained by Susan Thompson, Amy's Mystery, who failed to finish in his three races last season, was following up a good maiden win at the Bramham Moor a fortnight ago and proved a Charlton, who is assistant to John Parkes of Call Collect fame, with his second riding success.

Richard Burridge landed a notable double in the Irish Grand National and the Saintcloud maiden and the second afternoon. While David Orchid was thrilling the record crowd at Fairyhouse, Howard Brown brought home his summer stable companion, Made

Fabre waits with Jade Robbery

From Our French Racing Correspondent, Paris

MADE Robbery, who was a disappointing third behind *animax* in the Prix de Fontainebleau on Monday, has come out of the race well according to his trainer, Andre Mare.

The colt's participation in the 1000 Guineas has by no means

Meanwhile, I shall be looking carefully at the results of the English classic trials," he said. "The main interest on next Monday's Longchamp card will be how the Derby hope *Elieu de* performs in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, where he will meet

The former National Hunt jockey Rod Millman had his first winner when Royal Dartmouth, a 20-1 chance, captured

McCord
 3 Heat 10-10 ——— 2 West (4) 28
 Owner, BF - beaten favourite in
 Glasgow on which horse has won
 good to firm, hard. G - good,
 good to soft, heavy. Owner in
 trainer. Age and weight. Rider
 Lawrence. The Times Private
 Stewards.
 (rs) C 4

ner. BF - beaten favourite in
Going on which horse has won
ood to firm, hard. G - good.

Starwood 4-8-10	E Cochrane	84
Britain 4-0-0	S Causton	82
2-2	Pet Eddery	80
A-Ja J Razenden 4-3-0	A Murre	78
4-7-13	W Carson	76
7-6-7-8	W Carson	75

	M Fry	85
	G Sandwell	94
7	A Mackay	90

6-1 Burgoyne, 7-1 Robins Lane, 6-1
 Lions 14 ran

LEIGH is 5lb higher in the weights
 by defeating Beakman Street 151 in an
 open fly 90lb, 90lb in September.

125lb came to Trojan River on final start
 Robert (1st 6b, good), **PENNY FORGE**
 to defeat Captain Malt 11 in Warwick
 (100lb, 5fm). **BARNHART** performed
 well in the days at Doncaster last
 22nd to Lucy Verdict with **PENNY**
 (winner off) 6b 5th and **TRAVELLING**

BLACK GUARD
032: 1m 15 (10)

04-9-1 _____ **Paul Hickey** 84
5 _____ **S Cauffman** 96
05-13 _____ **W R Swinson** 26
06-13 _____ **W Mills** 86
Start 4-8-10 _____ **M Roberts** 86
0-10 _____ **R Raymond** 87
0 _____ **L Dalton** 96
0 _____ **Pat Eddy** 94
0 _____ **R Cocksedge** 87
0-6-7 _____ **W Cagran** 81
0-2 Tarleton, 0-1 Alphabet, 0-1 Porter

4th to Michelazzo on final start in
at Ay (1m 21 1/2yd, soft) earlier
to Naumkin in 1st; good to
good. PILOT 54 2nd to Snow Bird in
at York (1m 21 1/2yd, good to firm).
EAC

£3,477: 5f) (6 runners)

W R Siskind

_____	B Roome	_____
_____	L. Dufford	_____
_____	S. Cawston	_____
_____	M. Mills	_____
_____	W. Carson	_____

Author, Marston, 5-1 Asst. Hester, 12-4

1-1) R Hanson 18 ran

ists

JOCKEYS		
Winners	Rides	Per cent
100	509	22.1
85	455	14.0
88	507	13.8

52	385	13.5
55	445	12.4
41	340	12.1

ELLER CHASE **BBC 2**

12-11-18..... G McCoart ● 88
 12-11-1..... L Harvey 84
 10-13..... R Demersoy 80
 10-12..... J White 78
 13-10-10..... J Collins 76
 P Beckwith 66
 -5..... P Hawley (7) 57

...and on a 61 3rd. CONTRADEAL should be on a 5th to Juniper at Worcester (3m, 1000 yds). MEMBERSHIP (pulled up) on 301 at Ascot (3m, good to firm) on 11th in November when he would have been better for making a bad mistake at Worcester.

...rider in the National at Worcester (4, 3m) but comes into retraining at Mendicot Stud in Worcester January. MEMBERSHIP back to best on 224 at Sandown (3m 118yd, good to firm) but disappointed to see John O'Shea.

MEMBERSHIP

OVER TROPHY		BBC 2
6-9-11-10.....	H Dandee	91
.....-10.....	P Bradshaw	80
.....-11.....	S Sherry	80
.....-11-0.....	S Powell	59
6-7-11-10.....	Q McCourt	72
L Loh, 15-2 Loh's Delight, 20-1 Sure		
S Grifflins B ran		

1st unit wearing 5 out when a 23%
 Coin in the Gold Cup here (3m 21,
 LURE METAL best Tartan Tailor 61 at
 10, good to firm.
 DUNELL BAY (nap)
**CHAMPION-
 runners)**

EBC 2	
_____ P Sanderson	53
_____ J Cuthbert	55
_____ M Lynch	59

Gifford 6 ran

.....	J Callaghan	26
.....	M Foster	25
.....	J Dossman (2)	
.....	P Spencer	
.....	P Hickey	22
.....	W McFarland	27
.....	J Patton	
.....	S Harris (4)	
.....	P Davies	

11-12	J Osborne	20
	P Schochmore	20
	P Holley (3)	20
	J White	20
	Peter Hobbs	20
Total, 5-7 Parsons Green.		
Christian 18 men		

1st: Not won Pool of \$25,452.70
 started over today at Newmarket.
 2nd: \$236.30.

Warwick

1st: good to firm
 2nd: 45 (1m) 1, Red Tails (M Roberts, 5-2);
 3rd: Spyay River (Dean McGowan, 12-1); 4,
 5: Miles (M Wiggins, 55-1), 7-4 Fair Face

[illegible][illegible]

Despite the many encouraging aspects of the tour to West Indies, England are still lacking quality players for key positions

Gooch's England on the right road

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Antigua

DEFEAT has an instantly demoralising effect, even on a team of winners. England are coming home a beaten team, just as they were universally expected, and in the black and white world of professional sport, that will be judged a failure.

Detached reflection will show it as nothing of the sort. England's tour has been a triumph of organisation over adversity, motivation over mediocrity. This week's memory is of two Test matches lost in seven days, which is surely unique. Time needs to heal the superficial wounds and show the patient in surprisingly good health.

This was an ordeal which might have had terminal consequences. Instead, England's spent 11 weeks chasing unthinkable victory and one week seeing it all slip away.

To put it in perspective, minds need to be cast back to last September. England had been swamped by Australia. Gower had gone and the accession of Gooch seemed unexciting. Debate focused on another Caribbean whitewash. Anyone committing himself to a forecast of England going 1-0 ahead, being mugged in the act of making it 2-0, then losing the series to two late reversals, would have been the subject of derision. To my knowledge, no one was so foolish.

So England, even in defeat, have achieved immeasurably more than was likely or logical. In the words of the West Indies manager, Clive Lloyd, they have gained the self-belief to compete with the best. Indeed, they may very well have beaten the best but for one sickening moment which captured the paradoxes of the tour.

The credits must show that

Graham Gooch was director and floor manager of England's production. He also acted the lead role. This, remember, is the same man whose decision to return to the Caribbean represented a profound re-evaluation of his dark moods in 1986, when he was reclusive and resentful in the face of hostility over his South African past.

How ironical, then, that the pariah of four years ago was being widely acclaimed and approved here, politics forgotten, when he was put out of the tour by the first West Indian to return to Test cricket after serving a ban for touring South Africa. When Graeme Moseley broke Gooch's hand, on the final day in Trinidad, he also broke England's hold on this series. They were never the same force again and three more broken bones simply proved how luck runs with the winners.

Gooch's agony, these past three weeks, has been more in the head than in the hand. Instead of being immortalised as the leader of a great sporting victory, history will now decree that he was simply the wounded overlord of a beaten team. It is unfair, of course, but Gooch's consolation is that the job is his for the summer ahead and for next winter's tour to Australia.

He has inspired quietly, setting his example as much in thorough training and preparation as in tactics and batting. His players have become disciples, their respect unlimited, and if they struggle to quantify what it is that Gooch does for them, this is just the mystique of leadership.

Until this tour, Micky Stewart's contracted period as England team manager had little to commend it. Four out of five full series had been lost,

FIRST TEST (Antigua, Jamaica): West Indies 164 (A.C. Fraser 5 for 20) and 240 (C.A. Best 94, G.C. Small 4 for 58, D.E. Malcolm 4 for 77); England 289 (G.A. Gooch 84, W.L. Laker 57, C.A. Best 5 for 58) and 411 for 1. England won by nine wickets.

SECOND TEST (Georgetown, Guyana): Match abandoned.

THIRD TEST (Port of Spain, Trinidad): West Indies 186 (A.L. Logie 36, D.E. Malcolm 4 for 60) and 289 (D.E. Malcolm 8 for 77); England 289 (G.A. Gooch 84, W.L. Laker 57, C.A. Best 5 for 58) and 411 for 1. England won by nine wickets.

FOURTH TEST (St John's, Antigua): England 289 (D.E. Malcolm 8 for 77) and 186 (A.C. Fraser 5 for 20); West Indies 164 (A.C. Fraser 5 for 20) and 240 (C.A. Best 94, G.C. Small 4 for 58, D.E. Malcolm 4 for 77). England won by nine wickets.

FIFTH TEST (St John's, Antigua): England 289 (D.E. Malcolm 8 for 77) and 186 (A.C. Fraser 5 for 20); West Indies 164 (A.C. Fraser 5 for 20) and 240 (C.A. Best 94, G.C. Small 4 for 58, D.E. Malcolm 4 for 77). England won by nine wickets.

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